RAMAYAN
3392 AD
GRAPHIC INDIA
ISSUE 5
DASGUPTA / ABHISHEK

SHOUT
SHARE
IT

Ramayan 3392 AD

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In a world over 1300 years in the future, the last human survivors of the apocalypse have settled in the city of Armagarh, the last city that receives natural light from the sun. But Armagarh has been undone by a rotting corruption that has festered within in it. Now, a motley crew of renegades including the brothers Rama and Lakshman and led by the sage Vishwamitra wander the ravaged frontier readying for a final conflict against a weapon- turned-being they cannot even fully comprehend.

Now in the land of Mithila, it holds many surprises for our heroes. For it is an enchanted city situated at the bottom of a lake. The lake is naught but a narrow stretch of water hiding the great city beneath, abundant with the blessings of nature, flora fauna, habitable space and clean air to breathe. But this tranquil place is suddenly invaded by a small band of lethal Asuras led by the butcher General Tataka.

Rama and his band penetrate the secret city just in time to stop the Asuras as they wreak havoc in Mithila. In the process, Rama rescues a young Mithilan girl, Seeta, as she is threatened by Tataka who demands possession of the secret key to Maya Vidya or 'Earth Magic.' After a fearsome fight, Rama manages to undo the vicious Asura General. But as Tataka is about to die, Seeta rushes to her side trying to save the life of the wretched Asura. Rama is surprised to witness such an act of compassion, as the girl tries desperately to save the life of the very being who led the violent invasion of her homeland. Lakshman demands to know the identity of the strange Mithilan girl, to which Vishwamitra mysteriously replies: "She is the key to the salvation of this world and Rama is supposed to be her protector."

MITHILA: 5200 YOJANS FROM ARMAGARH.

WE MEET *AGAIN* AFTER ALL THESE YEARS VISHWAMITRA.

INDEED JANAK, THOUGH I WISH THE CIRCUMSTANCES WERE BETTER THIS TIME.

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN? FIFTY ODD YEARS?

LONGER. THE LAST TIME WAS WHEN *OLD MITHILA* FELL.

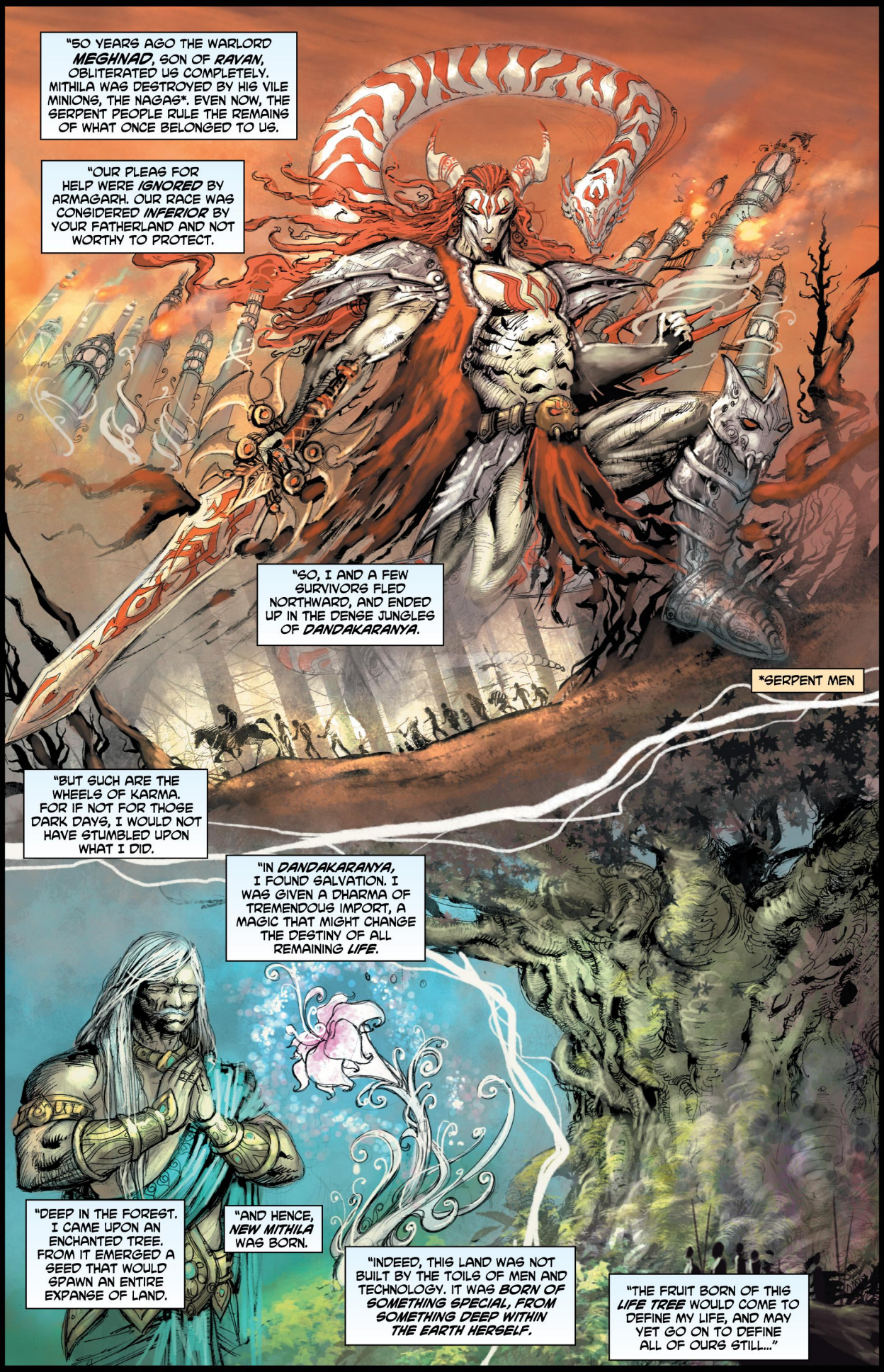
OLD MITHILA?

MY CITY WAS ONCE IN THE FAR SOUTH, BELOW THE *RISHYAMUK MOUNTAINS*. YEARS HAVE PASSED SINCE THE *SERPENT BEASTS* FROM NARK LAY CLAIM TO IT. APART FROM ARMAGARH, WE WERE THE *ONLY HUMANS* TO BUILD A TERRITORY IN THE SOUTHLANDS OF ARYAVARTA.

THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER HUMAN KINGDOM WAS NEVER RECORDED IN THE ANNALS OF ARMAGARH.

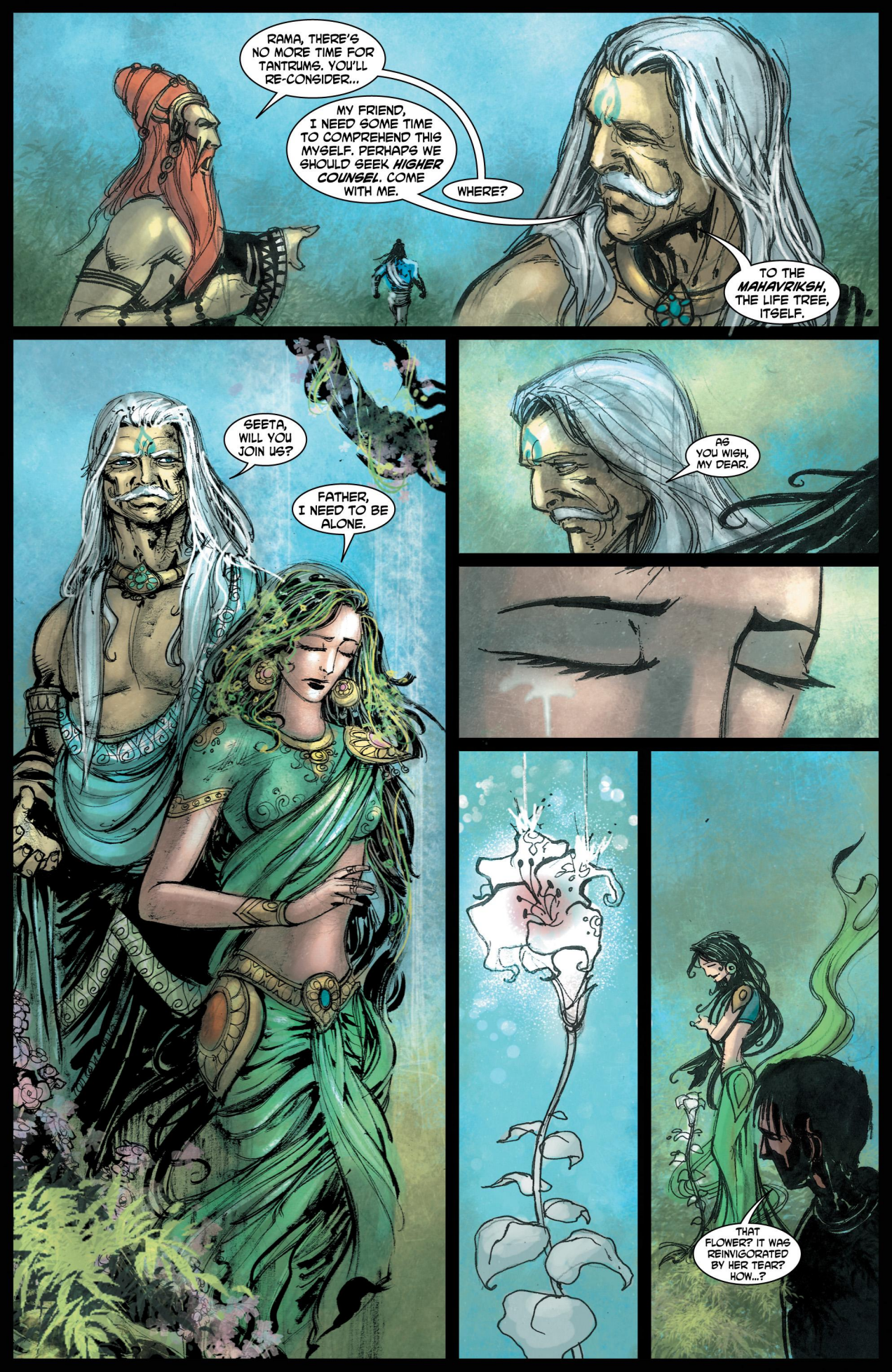
HOW DID YOU END UP HERE, IN A PLACE WHERE ALL OF NATURE'S LAWS ARE *DEFIED*?

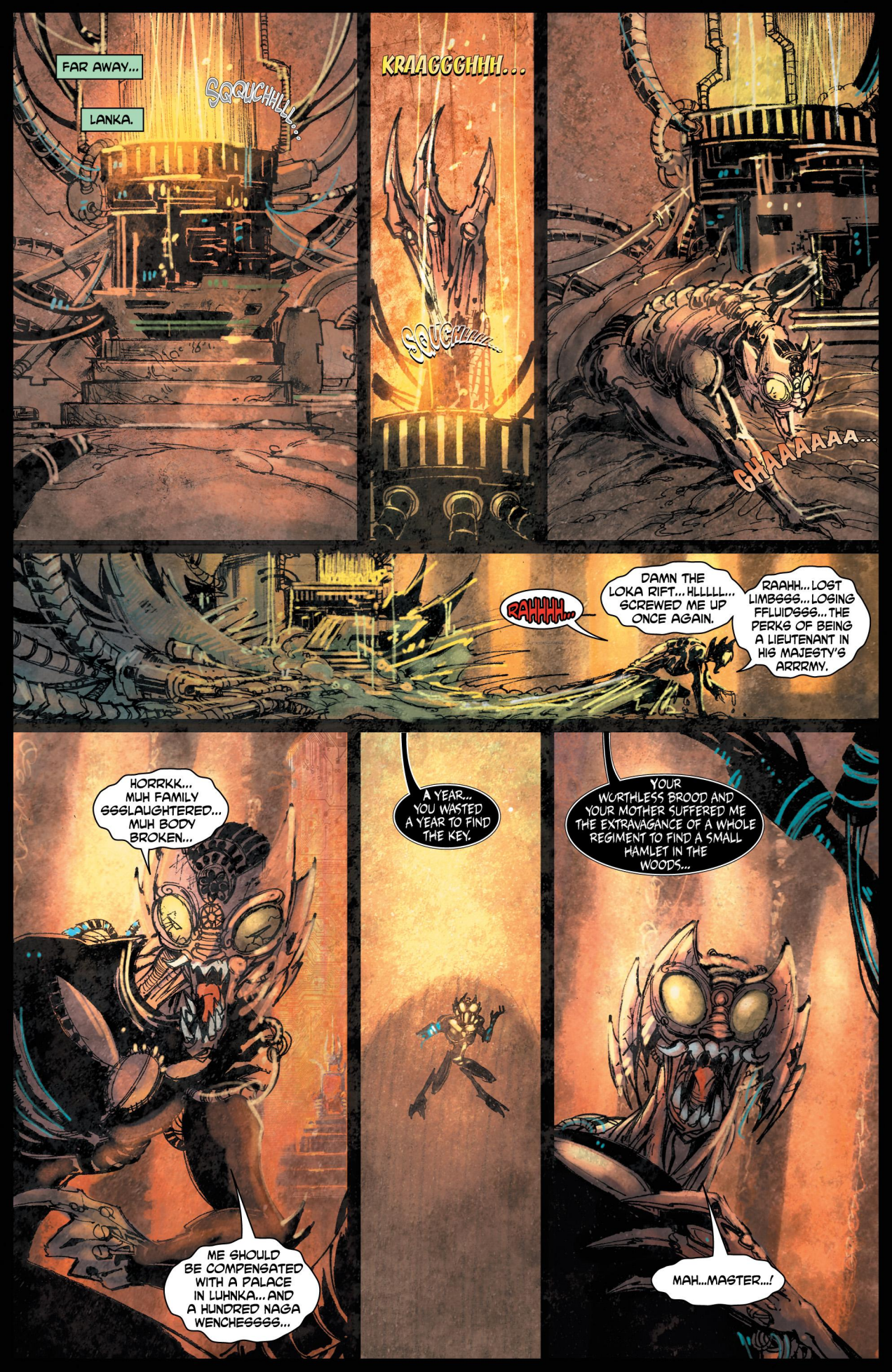
IT IS A *LONG* STORY, BUT AN IMPORTANT ONE FOR YOU TO KNOW. I WILL BE AS BRIEF AS I CAN.


"50 YEARS AGO THE WARLORD MEGHNAD, SON OF RAVAN, OBLITERATED US COMPLETELY. MITHILA WAS DESTROYED BY HIS VILE MINIONS, THE NAGAS*. EVEN NOW, THE SERPENT PEOPLE RULE THE REMAINS OF WHAT ONCE BELONGED TO US.
"OUR PLEAS FOR HELP WERE IGNORED BY ARMAGARH. OUR RACE WAS CONSIDERED INFERIOR BY YOUR FATHERLAND AND NOT WORTHY TO PROTECT.
"SO, I AND A FEW SURVIVORS FLED NORTHWARD, AND ENDED UP IN THE DENSE JUNGLES OF DANDAKARANYA.
*SERPENT MEN
"BUT SUCH ARE THE WHEELS OF KARMA. FOR IF NOT FOR THOSE DARK DAYS, I WOULD NOT HAVE STUMBLED UPON WHAT I DID.
"IN DANDAKARANYA, I FOUND SALVATION. I WAS GIVEN A DHARMA OF TREMENDOUS IMPORT, A MAGIC THAT MIGHT CHANGE THE DESTINY OF ALL REMAINING LIFE.
"DEEP IN THE FOREST. I CAME UPON AN ENCHANTED TREE. FROM IT EMERGED A SEED THAT WOULD SPAWN AN ENTIRE EXPANSE OF LAND.
"AND HENCE, NEW MITHILA WAS BORN.
"INDEED, THIS LAND WAS NOT BUILT BY THE TOILS OF MEN AND TECHNOLOGY. IT WAS BORN OF SOMETHING SPECIAL, FROM SOMETHING DEEP WITHIN THE EARTH HERSELF.
"THE FRUIT BORN OF THIS LIFE TREE WOULD COME TO DEFINE MY LIFE, AND MAY YET GO ON TO DEFINE ALL OF OURS STILL..."

...SEETA IS THE DAUGHTER OF MOTHER EARTH GIFTED UNTO ME. I WAS CHARGED HER PROTECTOR UNTIL NOW, AND I HAVE DONE THE BEST I CAN.
MY DEAR, I SEE THAT SHOOT OF CHAMPA HAS NOT PERISHED YET. IT ESCAPED THE FIRE.
DON'T WORRY FATHER, WE WILL RECOVER. I'LL MAKE IT MY COVENANT TO REBUILD OUR HOME.
I WOULD LIKE TO FORMALLY INTRODUCE MY OLD FRIEND VISHWAMITRA AND THE ARMAGARHIAN KSHATRIYA RAMA CHANDRA SURYAVANSHI, A WARRIOR OF UNMATCHED SKILL.
WARRIOR?
A MURDERER!

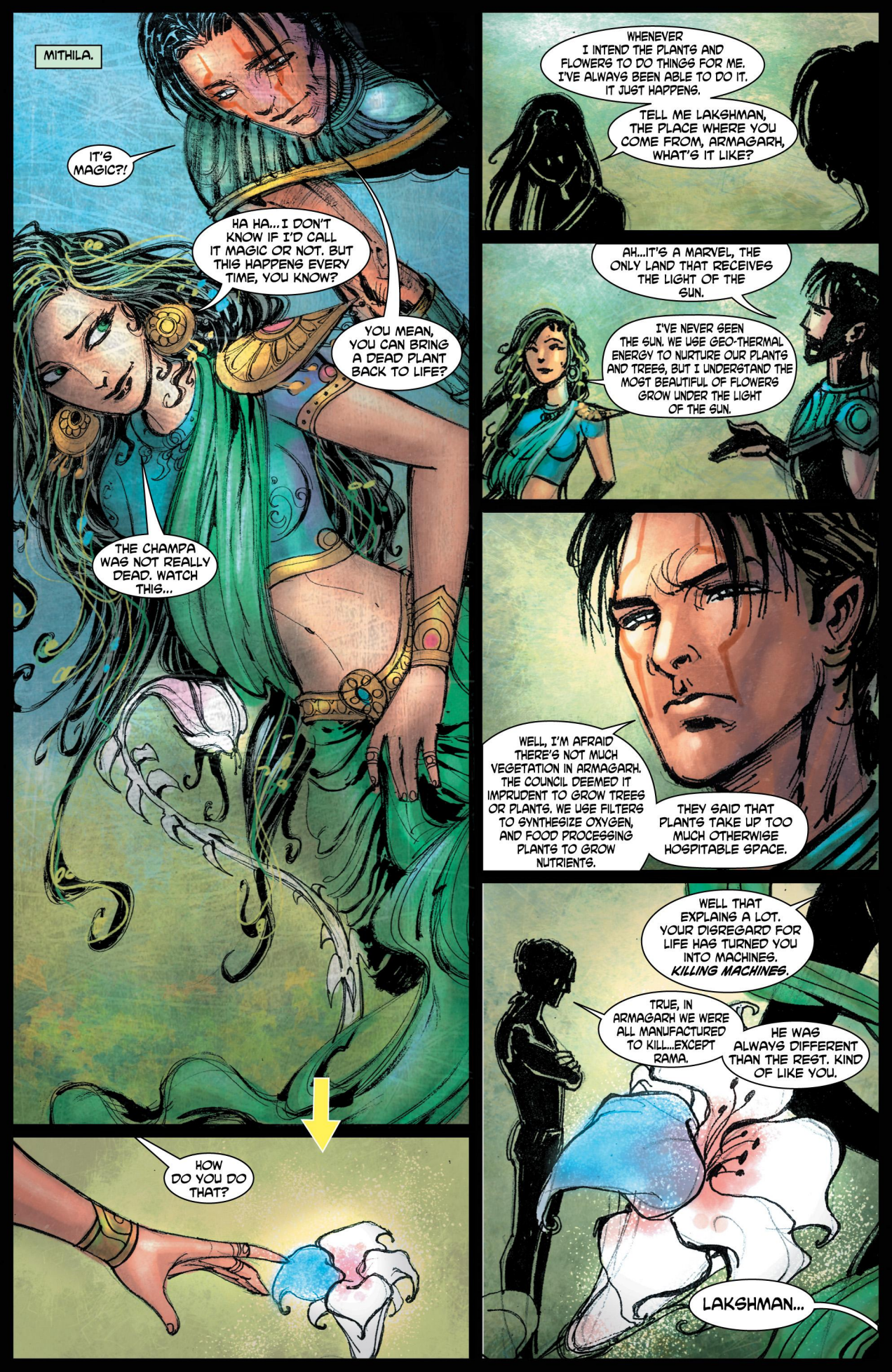
THEY BROUGHT DESTRUCTION AND VIOLENCE TO OUR LAND, FATHER. THEY MURDERED THOSE CREATURES LIKE BLOODTHIRSTY ANIMALS!
THESE 'ANIMALS' WERE ONLY TRYING TO PROTECT YOU, MY DEAR.
THE EVIL THAT WE ALL WITNESSED TODAY IS NOTHING COMPARED TO THE DARK STORM THAT IS APPROACHING; THAT IS WHY WE ARE HERE.
WHEN DO YOU EXPECT THE ASURA PRIME TO APPEAR?
I'M AFRAID ONE OF THE RAKSHASAS ESCAPED US. IT IS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE IS INFORMED OF THE WHEREABOUTS OF MITHILA. WE HAVE MERE HOURS.
TIME IS SHORT FOR EXPLANATIONS. MITHILA CANNOT BE SAVED, BUT SEETA MUST BE. RAVAN IS COMING FOR HER AND SHE MUST NOT FALL INTO HIS CLUTCHES. EVERYTHING DEPENDS ON IT.
SHE MUST COME WITH US.
RAMA, FROM NOW ON, YOU WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR SEETA. SHE IS THE REASON I BROUGHT YOU HERE.
WHAT?
I DON'T THINK SO! I'VE HAD QUITE ENOUGH, IF YOU PLEASE.
I GAVE UP SAVING THE WORLD A LONG TIME AGO WHEN THE WORLD--OR ARMAGARH, AT LEAST--TURNED ITS BACK ON ME.

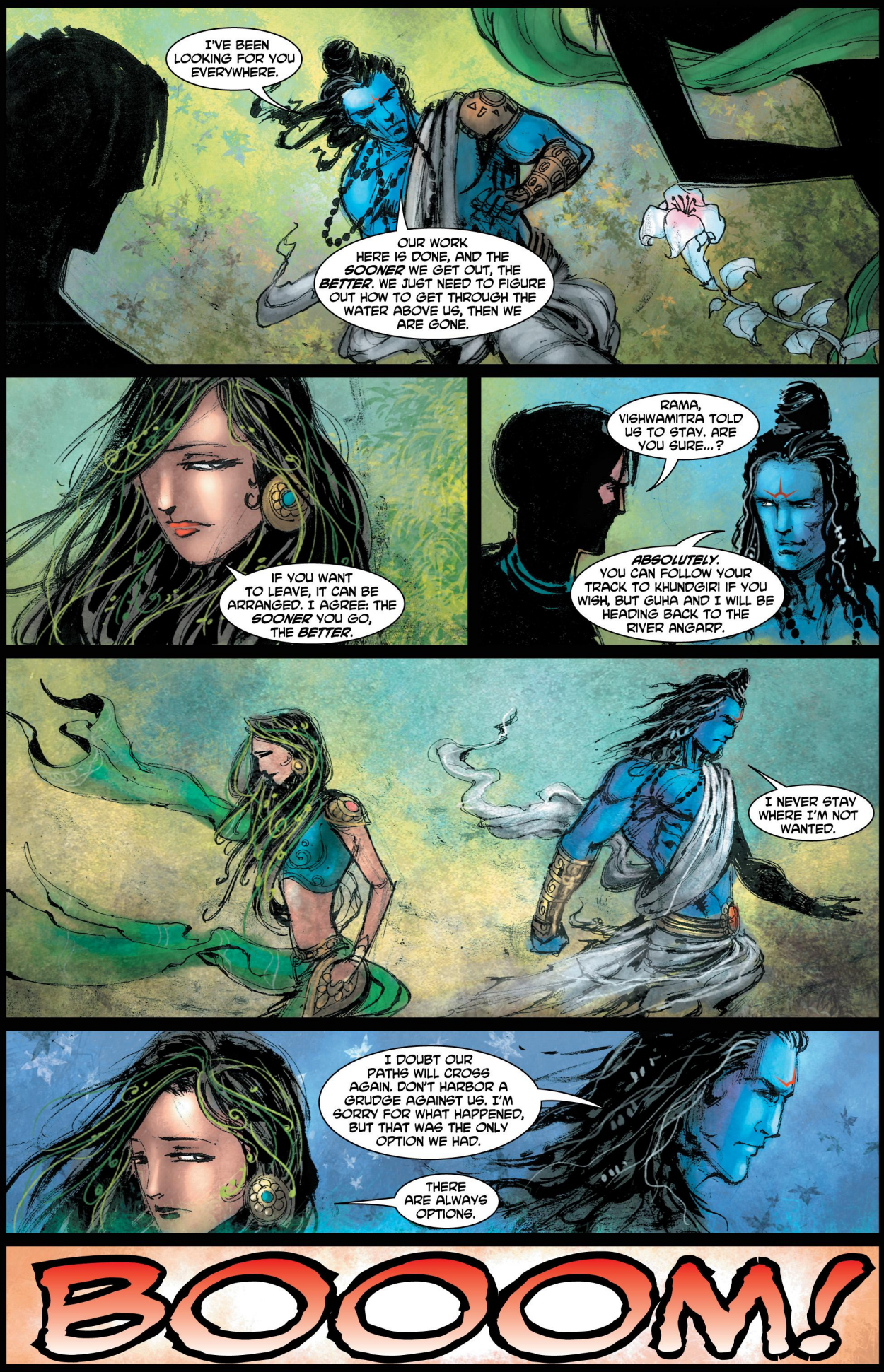

RAMA, THERE'S NO MORE TIME FOR TANTRUMS. YOU'LL RE-CONSIDER...
MY FRIEND, I NEED SOME TIME TO COMPREHEND THIS MYSELF. PERHAPS WE SHOULD SEEK *HIGHER COUNSEL*. COME WITH ME.
WHERE?
TO THE *MAHAVRIKSH*, THE LIFE TREE, ITSELF.
SEETA, WILL YOU JOIN US?
FATHER, I NEED TO BE ALONE.
AS YOU WISH, MY DEAR.
THAT FLOWER? IT WAS REINVIGORATED BY HER TEAR? HOW...?


FAR AWAY...
LANKA.
SQUCHHLL...
KRAAGGGHHH...
SQUCHHHHH...
GHAAAAAA...
RAHHHH...
DAMN THE LOKA RIFT... HLLLLL... SCREWED ME UP ONCE AGAIN.
RAAHH... LOST LIMBSSS... LOSING FFLUIDSSS... THE PERKS OF BEING A LIEUTENANT IN HIS MAJESTY'S ARRRMY.
HORRKK... MUH FAMILY SSSLAUGHTERED... MUH BODY BROKEN...
ME SHOULD BE COMPENSATED WITH A PALACE IN LUHNKA... AND A HUNDRED NAGA WENCHESSSS...
A YEAR... YOU WASTED A YEAR TO FIND THE KEY.
YOUR WORTHLESS BROOD AND YOUR MOTHER SUFFERED ME THE EXTRAVAGANCE OF A WHOLE REGIMENT TO FIND A SMALL HAMLET IN THE WOODS...
MAH...MASTER...!

AND NOW YOU BEG FOR COMPENSATION?
IF YOU ARE DONE TREMBLING, PROCEED WITH REPORTS.
Y-YES... O' LORD RAVAN...

MITHILA HAS BEEN UNCOVERED. I HAVE THE COORDINATES.
THE OLD SEER VISSSHWAMITRA, WITH HIS THREE HUMAN ACCOMPLICES, MANAGED TO KILL OUR MATRIARCH AND SOLDIERSSSS.
I MADE A NARROW ESCAPE THROUGH THE PORTAL MADE BY THE YANTRA SSSTAFF.
PERHAPS YOU WOULD LIKE TO EXPLAIN THE REASON BEHIND A BAND OF HUMANS OVERPOWERING MY "ELITE" FORCE?
I WILL LEAVE YOU TO THE RECONSTRUCTORS TO 'COMPENSATE' AMPLY FOR YOUR UNFORTUNATE LOSSES.
NOO... LORD RAVAN... MERCY... MERCYYYYY.....
FOUR HUMANS EXTIRPATE A PLATOON OF RAKSHASA WARRIORS.
IMPROBABLE.
THIS MATTER NEEDS MORE DIRECT INTERVENTION.
DEVANTAK, NARANTAK AND TRISHIRA...
YOUR FATHER NEEDS YOU TO FOLLOW THE COORDINATES. FETCH ME THE ONE I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR.
IF YOU FACE ANY RESISTANCE, BE SWIFT AND WITHOUT MERCY.
YES, SIRE.


MITHILA.
IT'S MAGIC?!
HA HA... I DON'T KNOW IF I'D CALL IT MAGIC OR NOT. BUT THIS HAPPENS EVERY TIME, YOU KNOW?
YOU MEAN, YOU CAN BRING A DEAD PLANT BACK TO LIFE?
THE Cchampa WAS NOT REALLY DEAD. WATCH THIS...
HOW DO YOU DO THAT?
WHENEVER I INTEND THE PLANTS AND FLOWERS TO DO THINGS FOR ME. I'VE ALWAYS BEEN ABLE TO DO IT. IT JUST HAPPENS.
TELL ME LAKSHMAN, THE PLACE WHERE YOU COME FROM, ARMAGARH, WHAT'S IT LIKE?
AH...IT'S A MARVEL, THE ONLY LAND THAT RECEIVES THE LIGHT OF THE SUN.
I'VE NEVER SEEN THE SUN. WE USE GEO-THERMAL ENERGY TO NURTURE OUR PLANTS AND TREES, BUT I UNDERSTAND THE MOST BEAUTIFUL OF FLOWERS GROW UNDER THE LIGHT OF THE SUN.
WELL, I'M AFRAID THERE'S NOT MUCH VEGETATION IN ARMAGARH. THE COUNCIL DEEMED IT IMPRUDENT TO GROW TREES OR PLANTS. WE USE FILTERS TO SYNTHESIZE OXYGEN, AND FOOD PROCESSING PLANTS TO GROW NUTRIENTS.
THEY SAID THAT PLANTS TAKE UP TOO MUCH OTHERWISE HOSPITABLE SPACE.
WELL THAT EXPLAINS A LOT. YOUR DISREGARD FOR LIFE HAS TURNED YOU INTO MACHINES. *KILLING MACHINES.*
TRUE, IN ARMAGARH WE WERE ALL MANUFACTURED TO KILL...EXCEPT RAMA.
HE WAS ALWAYS DIFFERENT THAN THE REST. KIND OF LIKE YOU.
LAKSHMAN...


I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU EVERYWHERE.
OUR WORK HERE IS DONE, AND THE SOONER WE GET OUT, THE BETTER. WE JUST NEED TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO GET THROUGH THE WATER ABOVE US, THEN WE ARE GONE.
IF YOU WANT TO LEAVE, IT CAN BE ARRANGED. I AGREE: THE SOONER YOU GO, THE BETTER.
RAMA, VISHWAMITRA TOLD US TO STAY. ARE YOU SURE...?
ABSOLUTELY. YOU CAN FOLLOW YOUR TRACK TO KHUNDGIRI IF YOU WISH, BUT GUHA AND I WILL BE HEADING BACK TO THE RIVER ANGARP.
I NEVER STAY WHERE I'M NOT WANTED.
I DOUBT OUR PATHS WILL CROSS AGAIN. DON'T HARBOR A GRUDGE AGAINST US. I'M SORRY FOR WHAT HAPPENED, BUT THAT WAS THE ONLY OPTION WE HAD.
THERE ARE ALWAYS OPTIONS.
BOOM!

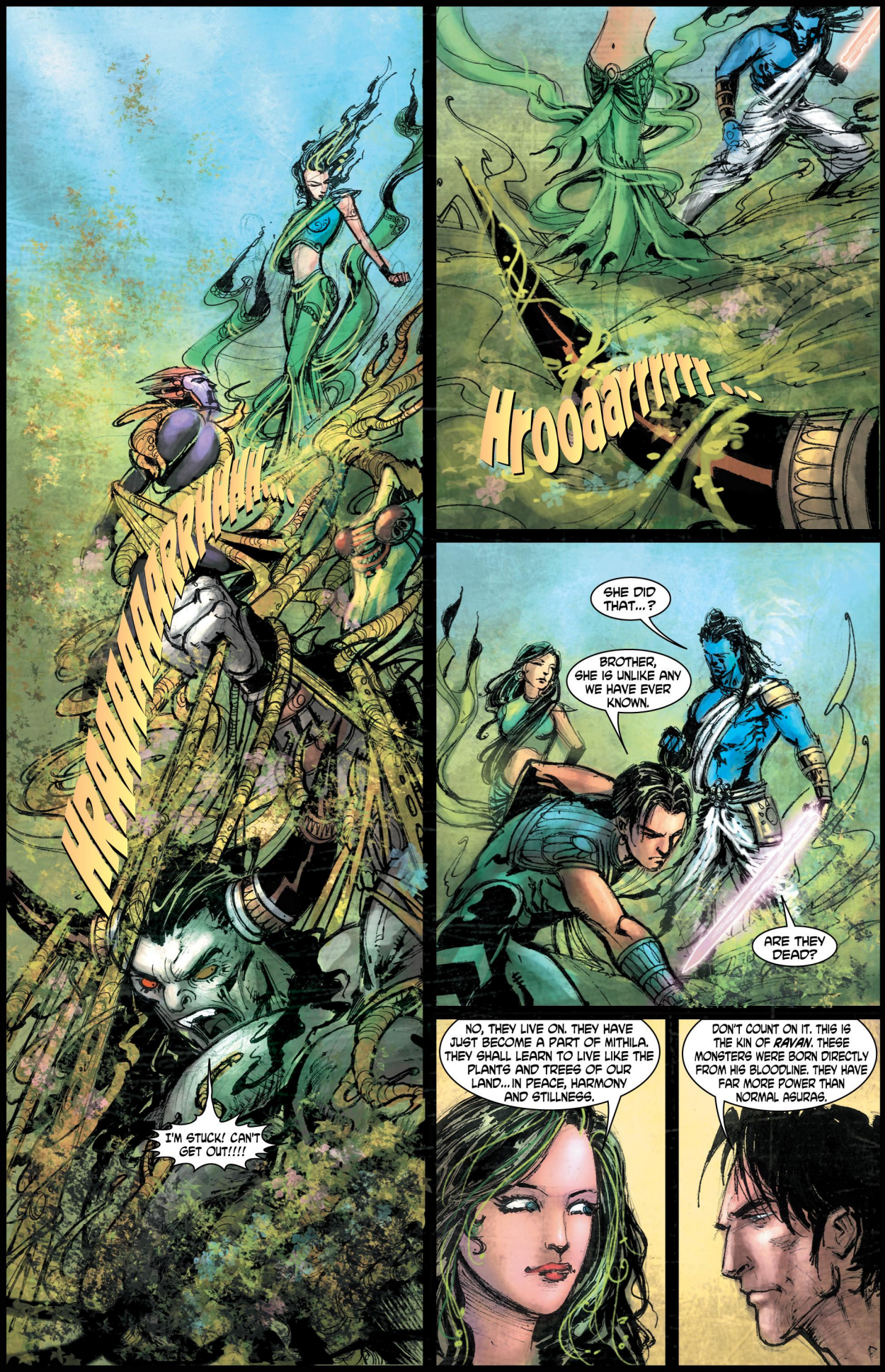
TRISHIRA
THE CO-ORDINATES ARE EXACT. THERE SHE IS.
DESTROY MITHILA, AND TAKE THE GIRL! BE SWIFT AND WITHOUT MERCY.
NARANTAK
DEVANTAK
HERE WE GO AGAIN.

MEANWHILE... THE MAHAVRIKSH.
THE INNER SANCTUM.
The time has come O' Janak. She must leave the sanctuary of Mithila.
She was bestowed unto you for protection and care. You have excelled in that task.
But now, her destiny lies elsewhere. With someone else.
YOU MEAN... THE BLUE STRANGER?
IS THERE NO OTHER WAY...?
Yes.
There is no other way.
HEAVEN AND EARTH BEAR WITNESS, O' MOTHER DHARTI*, I NEVER FLINCHED FROM MY DHARMA.
*GODDESS EARTH
Then finish it with equal honor...
YES, O' MOTHER.

GIVE UP! EVEN THE APE LORDS OF KISHKINDHA FELL UNDER DEVANTAK'S BLADE, HUMAN!
AM I *LESS* THAN A MONKEY IN YOUR EYES?!
DIE!
YOU KNOW, GIVEN ANY OTHER DAY, I WOULD HAVE PROPOSED TO YOU.
WE'D HAVE BRED THE FINEST OF *'RAK-SHATRIYAS.'*
KEEP THE HUMANS BUSY BROTHER AND SISTER...
THE PRIZE SHALL BE MINE.
NO!

ON'LY PRIZE Y'LL GET IS YER OWN HEAD STUFFED UP YER...
STOP...FOR GOD'S SAKE!
GHAHHH!
Whdadopp!
MY TASTES ARE FAR TOO REFINED TO SOIL MY HANDS WITH YOUR FILTHY HUMAN BLOOD.
BUT YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE...
GUHAAAAA...!
HE HE HE HE...
PLEASE...

...STOP!


HRAAA

RRRAAARGHHH!
GHRRARHH...GIRL... YOU DID THIS TO ME...KILL... KILL YOU...
NOT AS LONG AS I BREATHE.
DIEEEEEE....!
NYAAARGHH!
BOP!
YOU WILL SUFFER...
I...

...TOLD YOU...
GHRAAAAWWRRR...
...DON'T...
...DON'T YOU DARE...
...TOUCH...
...HER!
"RAMA, WHAT HAVE YOU DONE?"

YOUR ACT WAS NOBLE INDEED, BUT BY SLAYING THE RAKSHASA PRINCE YOU HAVE BEGUN A CHAIN OF UNSTOPPABLE REACTIONS.
ALL OF RAVAN'S BROOD ARE LINKED WITH HIM BOTH PHYSICALLY AND THROUGH CONSCIOUSNESS. THE DEATH OF DEVANTAK WILL BRING THE ASURA PRIME HIMSELF TO MITHILA. HIS RAGE WILL BE DEVASTATING.
WITH THE LOKA DWAR* AT HIS DISPOSAL HE COULD BE HERE ANY MOMENT.
YOU MUST GET AWAY FROM HERE BEFORE HE ARRIVES. ESCAPE WITH SEETA.
* DIMENSIONAL GATE
I WILL NOT FORSAKE OUR PEOPLE.
THERE'S NO TIME FOR THIS NOW. GO QUICKLY TO THE MAHAVRIKSH IF YOU WISH TO SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR FATHER.
HEY, WE TOOK DOWN THREE OF HIS BROOD TO BEGIN WITH. I THINK THE WHOLE MYTH OF RAVAN IS A BIT OVERBLOWN. NOT TO MENTION THE FACT THAT RAMA IS SEVERELY WOUNDED. HE IS IN NO SHAPE TO GO ANYWHERE.
FOOLS! DO YOU REALLY WANT TO FACE HIM?
HIS SPAWN ARE LEGION AND THESE WERE THE FEEBLEST OF THE LOT. YOU CANNOT EVEN BEGIN TO COMPREHEND THE POWER HE EMBODIES.
YOU'LL BE TWIGS FACING A STORM!
W-WHAT'S THAT!? AN EARTH-QUAKE!
RRRUMBLE...
THIS IS NO EARTHQUAKE... IT'S HIM...HE HAS COME...
RUN, FOR THE LOVE OF GOD. RUN!

THE FALL OF MITHILA BEGINS...

IT'S AN ARMOR I HAVEN'T WORN IN FIFTY YEARS.
YOU... YOU WILL FIGHT?

YES, MY CHILD, FOR YOU, TO MY VERY LAST BREATH, IF NEED BE.

RAMA... I BESTOW IN YOUR CARE, THE MOST PRECIOUS OF ALL BEINGS IN THIS WORLD, AND THE MEANS TO PROTECT HER.
ACCEPT THE HARADHANU. IT CAN BE THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON IF USED WISELY.
FATHER, NO!!
CHILD, LISTEN CAREFULLY AND DO NOT ARGUE. THE GREAT MOTHER HAS OPENED A WAY FOR YOUR ESCAPE. LEAVE NOW MY DEAR; THIS IS THE LAST REQUEST OF YOUR FATHER.

RUN AS FAST AS YOU CAN. I'LL ENGAGE HIM. TRY TO BUY YOU SOME TIME.

FATHER! IT'S CHAOS OUTSIDE! THE DARK ONE THEY SPEAK OF HAS COME!
WHAT IS THIS STRANGE OUTFIT YOU ARE WEARING?

I...I...
I MEAN IT.
NOW!

YOUR BEING HAS BLESSED ME BEYOND WORDS.
WE'LL COME BACK FOR YOU FATHER, I PROMISE. I LOVE YOU...
I LOVE YOU MORE THAN MY OWN LIFE.
RRRUMBLE
OOH

UNSETTLING, ISN'T IT, OH HOLY FATHER?
ALL ALONE, YOUR KINDGOM IN RUINS, YOUR PEOPLE ANNIHILATED.
FACING ME.
RRRRAVAN!
TO BE CONTINUED.

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The seeds of the war torn world of Aryavarta and Nark were sown long ago. Armagarh, the last bastion of humankind is corrupted from within. Armagarh has lost its former glory, the iron hand of the council has curbed the freedom of the citizens of the great land. In several underhanded moves, the council has methodically eliminated the Suryavanshis, the greatest of Armagarhian Kshatriyas, from all positions of power. Rama is banished from Armagarh, Lakshman is on the run, and Bharat and Shatrughan are reported killed in the wars of Khundgiri. After the death of Maharaj Dashrath, the situation is grim for Armagarh. Now, a secret cabal of rebels are fighting against the ruling council to bring justice and order back in Armagarh. Sumantra, the former prime minister of the Armagarhian council has gone undercover and is leading a small band of rebels with the singular objective of bringing down the corrupted council. Their search to uncover the plans of the council leads them to the very place from where Armagarh is monitored and controlled. The Rajmahal, or the royal abode of the former Maharaj Dashrath.

ARMAGARH

"...GODS INTO MORTALS...

THE RAJMAHAL

ROYAL ABODE OF THE COUNCILORS OF ARMAGARH.

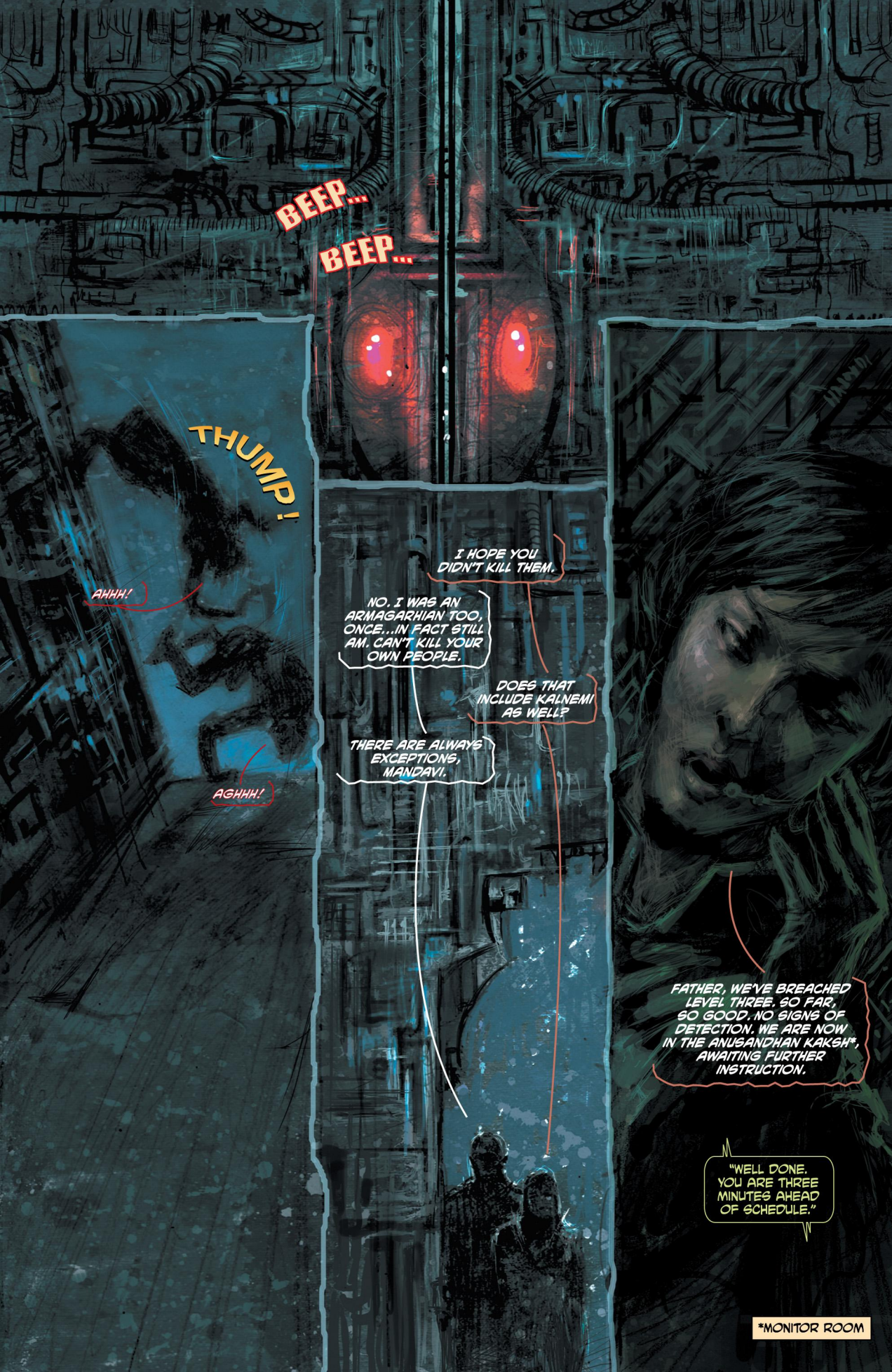
"...SAINTS INTO SINNERS...

"AND FIRST CADRE ROYAL COMMANDOS INTO LITTLE SCURRYING THIEVES.

"LOOKS LIKE I FINALLY JOINED THE EXTRA SPECIAL DIVINE RETRIBUTION CLUB.

"NO CHANCE OF COMEUPPANCE!"

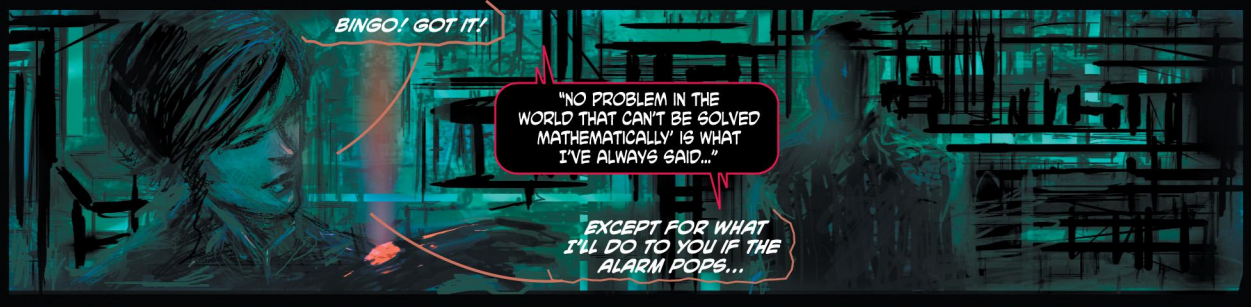
"MY, MY... IF WORDS WERE WEAPONS, YOU'D KILL A GOD TONIGHT MANDAVI,... STAY FOCUSED. YOU'VE YET TO BREACH THE GARV GRIHA. CAREFUL, GUARDS AROUND THE CORNER."


BEEP...
BEEP...
THUMP!
AHHH!
AGHHH!
I HOPE YOU DIDN'T KILL THEM.
NO. I WAS AN ARMAGARHIAN TOO, ONCE...IN FACT STILL AM. CAN'T KILL YOUR OWN PEOPLE.
DOES THAT INCLUDE KALNEMI AS WELL?
THERE ARE ALWAYS EXCEPTIONS, MANDAVI.
FATHER, WE'VE BREACHED LEVEL THREE. SO FAR, SO GOOD. NO SIGNS OF DETECTION. WE ARE NOW IN THE ANUSANDHAN KAKSH*, AWAITING FURTHER INSTRUCTION.
"WELL DONE. YOU ARE THREE MINUTES AHEAD OF SCHEDULE."
*MONITOR ROOM

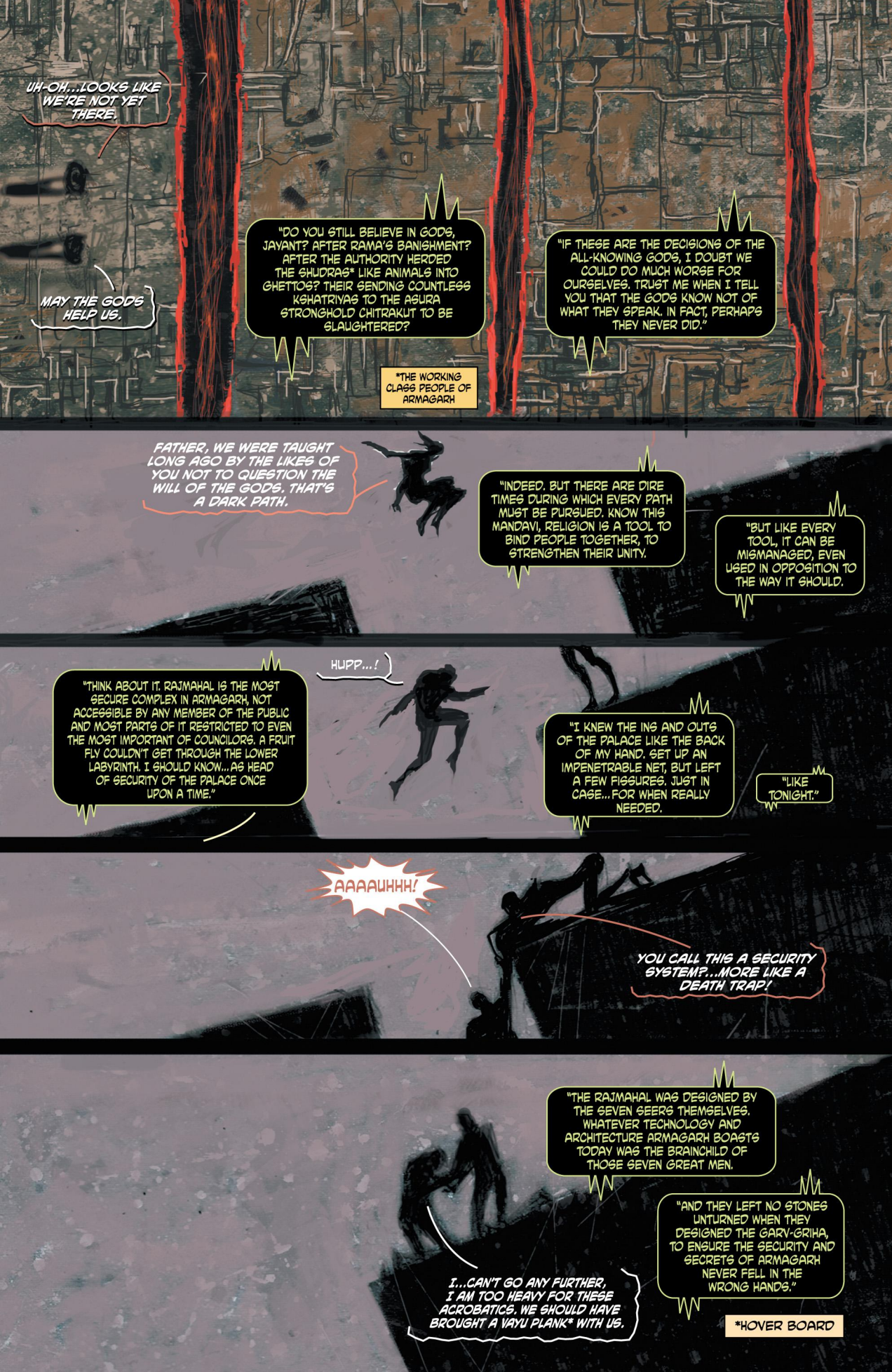
... AND SPEAKING OF COMEUPPANCE, I GET A FEELING WE'LL WIN THE BAAZI* TONIGHT.
ON YOUR LEFT SIDE THERE IS A KEY PAD; YOU'LL HAVE TO HAVE THE RIGHT CODE TO OPEN THE DOOR.
COME IN AGNISH, THIS IS WHERE WE NEED YOUR HELP...
MANDAVI, PATCHING YOU THROUGH...READY AGNISH?
READY, COUNCILOR SUMANTRA.
...EX-COUNCILOR.
* HIT THE JACKPOT

WE'RE IN TROUBLE... THIS IS LITERALLY A PAGE OUT OF MY OLD MATH TEXTBOOKS.
"THAT WHY YOU FLUNKED MATH?"
CUT THE CHIT CHAT AGNISH. I'M NOT EXACTLY TAKING MY MORNING WALK HERE.

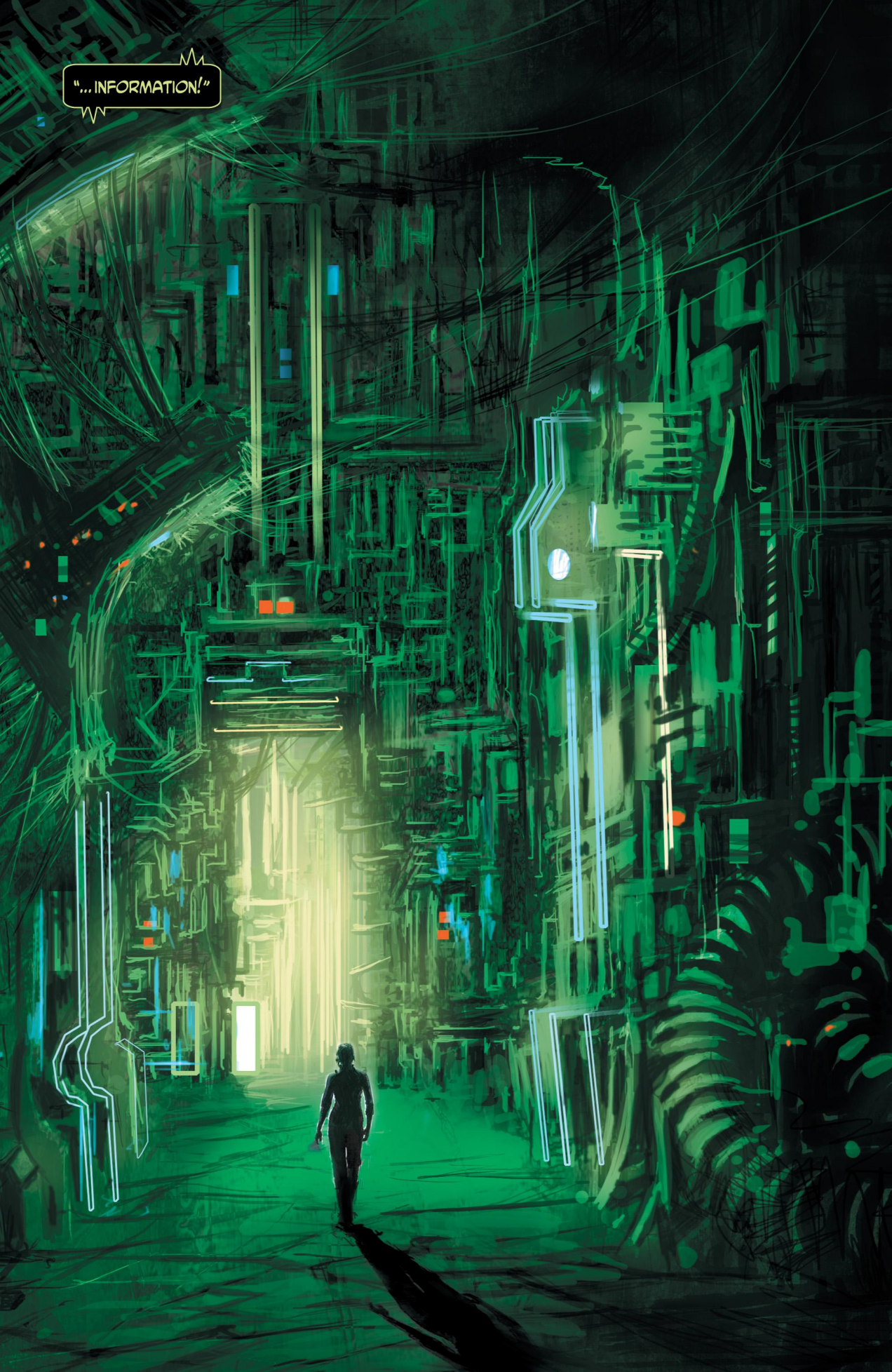
ENOUGH...YOU'RE WASTING TIME.
"GUESS WE NEEDED THAT THREE MINUTES THEN..."


BINGO! GOT IT!
"NO PROBLEM IN THE WORLD THAT CAN'T BE SOLVED MATHEMATICALLY' IS WHAT I'VE ALWAYS SAID..."
EXCEPT FOR WHAT I'LL DO TO YOU IF THE ALARM POPS...

OPEN SESAME !
YOU KNOW, I'VE BEEN IN SERVICE OF ARMAGARH FOR THE PAST FIFTEEN YEARS BUT NEVER KNEW THE GARV-GRIHA EVEN EXISTED.
"YOU WEREN'T SUPPOSED TO. VERY FEW INDIVIDUALS OUTSIDE THE COUNCIL KNOW OF THE GARV-GRIHAS' EXISTENCE."


UH-OH...LOOKS LIKE WE'RE NOT YET THERE.
MAY THE GODS HELP US.
"DO YOU STILL BELIEVE IN GODS, JAYANT? AFTER RAMA'S BANISHMENT? AFTER THE AUTHORITY HERDED THE SHUDRAS* LIKE ANIMALS INTO GHETTOS? THEIR SENDING COUNTLESS KSHATRIYAS TO THE ASURA STRONGHOLD CHITRAKUT TO BE SLAUGHTERED?
*THE WORKING CLASS PEOPLE OF ARMAGARH
"IF THESE ARE THE DECISIONS OF THE ALL-KNOWING GODS, I DOUBT WE COULD DO MUCH WORSE FOR OURSELVES. TRUST ME WHEN I TELL YOU THAT THE GODS KNOW NOT OF WHAT THEY SPEAK. IN FACT, PERHAPS THEY NEVER DID."
FATHER, WE WERE TAUGHT LONG AGO BY THE LIKES OF YOU NOT TO QUESTION THE WILL OF THE GODS. THAT'S A DARK PATH.
"INDEED. BUT THERE ARE DIRE TIMES DURING WHICH EVERY PATH MUST BE PURSUED. KNOW THIS MANDAVI, RELIGION IS A TOOL TO BIND PEOPLE TOGETHER, TO STRENGTHEN THEIR UNITY.
"BUT LIKE EVERY TOOL, IT CAN BE MISMANAGED, EVEN USED IN OPPOSITION TO THE WAY IT SHOULD.
"THINK ABOUT IT. RAJMAHAL IS THE MOST SECURE COMPLEX IN ARMAGARH, NOT ACCESSIBLE BY ANY MEMBER OF THE PUBLIC AND MOST PARTS OF IT RESTRICTED TO EVEN THE MOST IMPORTANT OF COUNCILORS. A FRUIT FLY COULDN'T GET THROUGH THE LOWER LABYRINTH. I SHOULD KNOW...AS HEAD OF SECURITY OF THE PALACE ONCE UPON A TIME."
HUPP...!
"I KNEW THE INS AND OUTS OF THE PALACE LIKE THE BACK OF MY HAND. SET UP AN IMPENETRABLE NET, BUT LEFT A FEW FISSURES. JUST IN CASE...FOR WHEN REALLY NEEDED.
"LIKE TONIGHT."
AAAAUHHH!
YOU CALL THIS A SECURITY SYSTEM?...MORE LIKE A DEATH TRAP!
"THE RAJMAHAL WAS DESIGNED BY THE SEVEN SEERS THEMSELVES. WHATEVER TECHNOLOGY AND ARCHITECTURE ARMAGARH BOASTS TODAY WAS THE BRAINCHILD OF THOSE SEVEN GREAT MEN.
"AND THEY LEFT NO STONES UNTURNED WHEN THEY DESIGNED THE GARV-GRIHA, TO ENSURE THE SECURITY AND SECRETS OF ARMAGARH NEVER FELL IN THE WRONG HANDS."
I...CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER, I AM TOO HEAVY FOR THESE ACROBATICS. WE SHOULD HAVE BROUGHT A VAYU PLANK* WITH US.
*HOVER BOARD

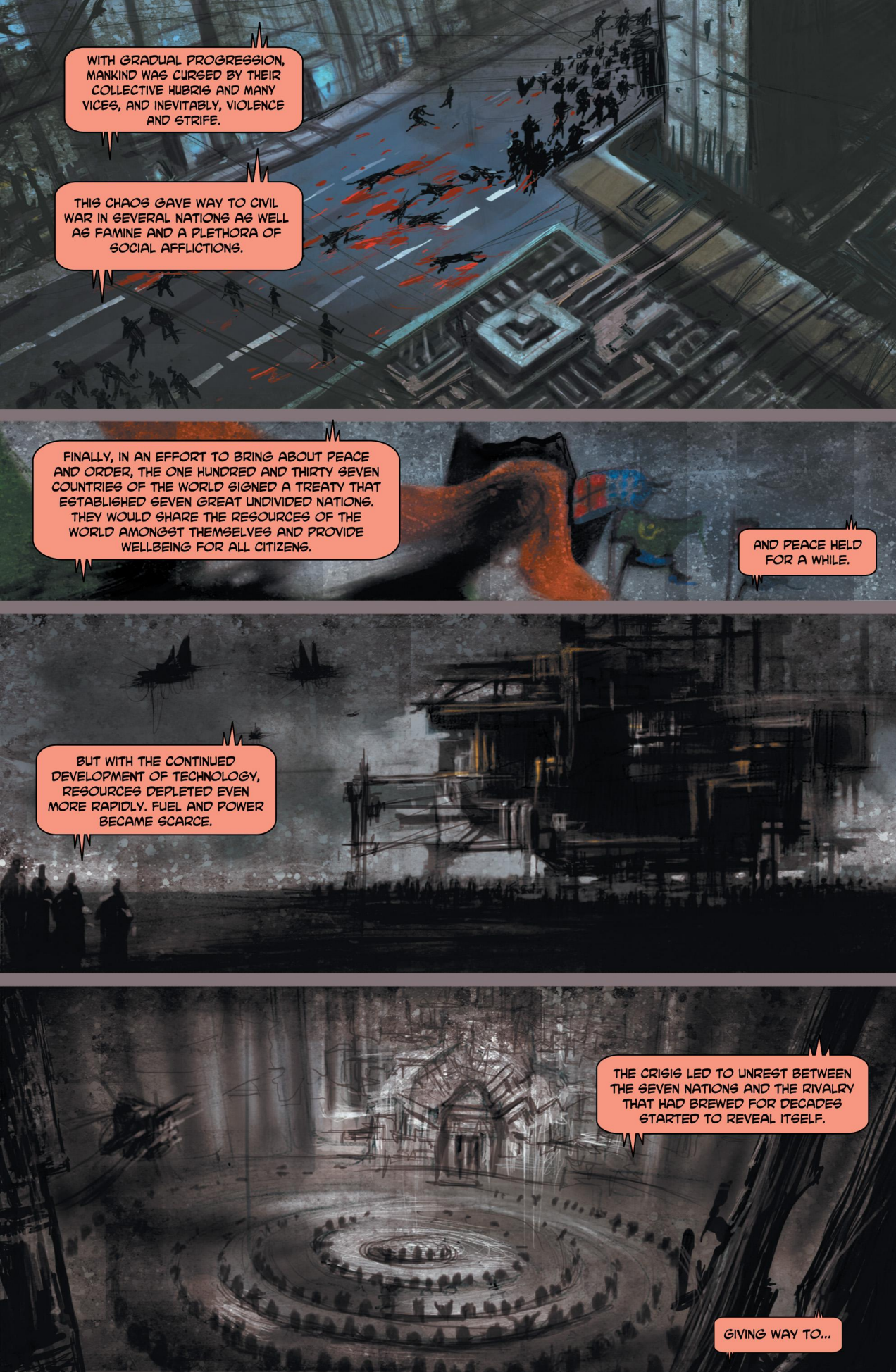
"NOT POSSIBLE. ANY DEVICE POWERED BY THE SOLAR BATTERY WILL IMMEDIATELY BE DETECTED BY THE SCANNERS."
I HOPE WE'RE NOT ON A WILD GOOSE CHASE. YOU HAVEN'T EVEN TOLD US WHAT WE ARE SUPPOSED TO LOOK FOR.
"PATIENCE, MY DEAR, PATIENCE."
AH...SO WE ARE HERE TO STEAL SOME SECRET SUPER-WEAPON. AFTER ALL.
INDEED, MY DEAR GIRL...
"THE GREATEST WEAPON OF THEM ALL...."


"...INFORMATION!"

"WHAT YOU ARE SEEING IS THE HEART OF ARMAGARH.
"A MARVEL OF THE GREAT SCIENCES OF THE PAST WORLD ON WHICH WE FEED OFF EVEN TODAY."
THIS IS WHAT THE SEVEN SEERS HAD CREATED AS THEIR LEGACY, TRUSTING THAT IT WOULD FOREVER FORM THE SPINE BY WHICH ARMAGARH AND HER PEOPLE WOULD OPERATE.
WHAT IS THIS?
KHART
"MY SUSPICION WAS RIGHT....
"THE 'DIVYA DRISHTI' OR THE GOD PROGRAMME HAS BEEN TAMPERED WITH.
"SOLDIERS, I'M SORRY YOU HAD TO SEE IT THIS WAY, BUT IT'S MORE CRITICAL THAN EVER THAT YOU KNOW THE TRUTH.
"THE GODS OF ARMAGARH ARE NOTHING BUT LIGHT INDUCED IMAGES, A PROJECTION THAT WAS KNOWN IN THE OLD SCIENCES AS HOLOGRAMS!
"AS PART OF OUR OATH AS ARMAGARHIAN COUNCILMEN, WE SWEAR TO PROTECT HER PEOPLE FROM THE EXISTENCE OF THE PROGRAM. BUT NOW WE ARE ROTTING FROM THE INSIDE OUT AND OUR GREATEST TOOL OF GOVERNANCE HAS BEEN MADE A WEAPON AGAINST US."
THIS IS UNBELIEVABLE! WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF ALL OF THIS?
BUT THIS IS TOO COMPLICATED. HOW ARE WE SUPPOSED TO FIND ANYTHING IN HERE?
HZZZMMTTT... SHUDRA...NORTH EAST...ARMAGAR H.....RTTTT....
OHHH!
WHAT THE...!
I HAD TO SEE IT FOR MYSELF TO BE CONVINCED.

THIS ISN'T POSSIBLE. IT WOULD MEAN THAT FOR ALL THESE YEARS, WE HAVE BEEN DUPED IN BELIEVING A FAKE SHOW OF LIGHT, SOUND, AND FURY!
"MANDAVI, THE SEVEN SEERS CREATED THE PROGRAM FOR VERY SPECIFIC REASONS. THE WORLD THEY HAD SURVIVED DEMANDED A DEGREE OF AUTHORITY THAT NO HUMAN COULD EVER SUPPLY. THEY CREATED WHAT THEY HAD TO, TO PRESERVE AND PERPETUATE WHATEVER LIMITED ORDER HAD SURVIVED THE MAHAVINAASH."
LET'S CHECK THE LOGS.
CLICK
LOG ENTRY 00028... VISUAL FEED INITIATED... PROCEED...
I AM VASHISHTA OF THE SAPTARSHI*.
ONE OF THE SEVEN SEERS!
"THE SEVEN SEERS LEFT THE CITY OF ARMAGARH TO EXPLORE THE REST OF THE WORLD A CENTURY AGO. ONE OF THEM STAYED BACK TO MONITOR ARMAGARH. VASHISHTA WAS THE GREATEST OF THE SAPTARSHI*."
*SEVEN SEERS

HEREIN LIES THE STORY OF CREATION. HOW WE CAME TO BE.
THE THIRD AGE OF MANKIND REACHED A TENUOUS BALANCE, AN ADVANCED STAGE OF EVOLUTION MATCHED ONLY BY ITS LACK OF CONSCIENCE.


WITH GRADUAL PROGRESSION, MANKIND WAS CURSED BY THEIR COLLECTIVE HUBRIS AND MANY VICES, AND INEVITABLY, VIOLENCE AND STRIFE.
THIS CHAOS GAVE WAY TO CIVIL WAR IN SEVERAL NATIONS AS WELL AS FAMINE AND A PLETHORA OF SOCIAL AFFLICTIONS.
FINALLY, IN AN EFFORT TO BRING ABOUT PEACE AND ORDER, THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SEVEN COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD SIGNED A TREATY THAT ESTABLISHED SEVEN GREAT UNDIVIDED NATIONS. THEY WOULD SHARE THE RESOURCES OF THE WORLD AMONGST THEMSELVES AND PROVIDE WELLBEING FOR ALL CITIZENS.
AND PEACE HELD FOR A WHILE.
BUT WITH THE CONTINUED DEVELOPMENT OF TECHNOLOGY, RESOURCES DEPLETED EVEN MORE RAPIDLY. FUEL AND POWER BECAME SCARCE.
THE CRISIS LED TO UNREST BETWEEN THE SEVEN NATIONS AND THE RIVALRY THAT HAD BREWED FOR DECADES STARTED TO REVEAL ITSELF.
GIVING WAY TO...

...THE GREAT GLOBAL WAR.

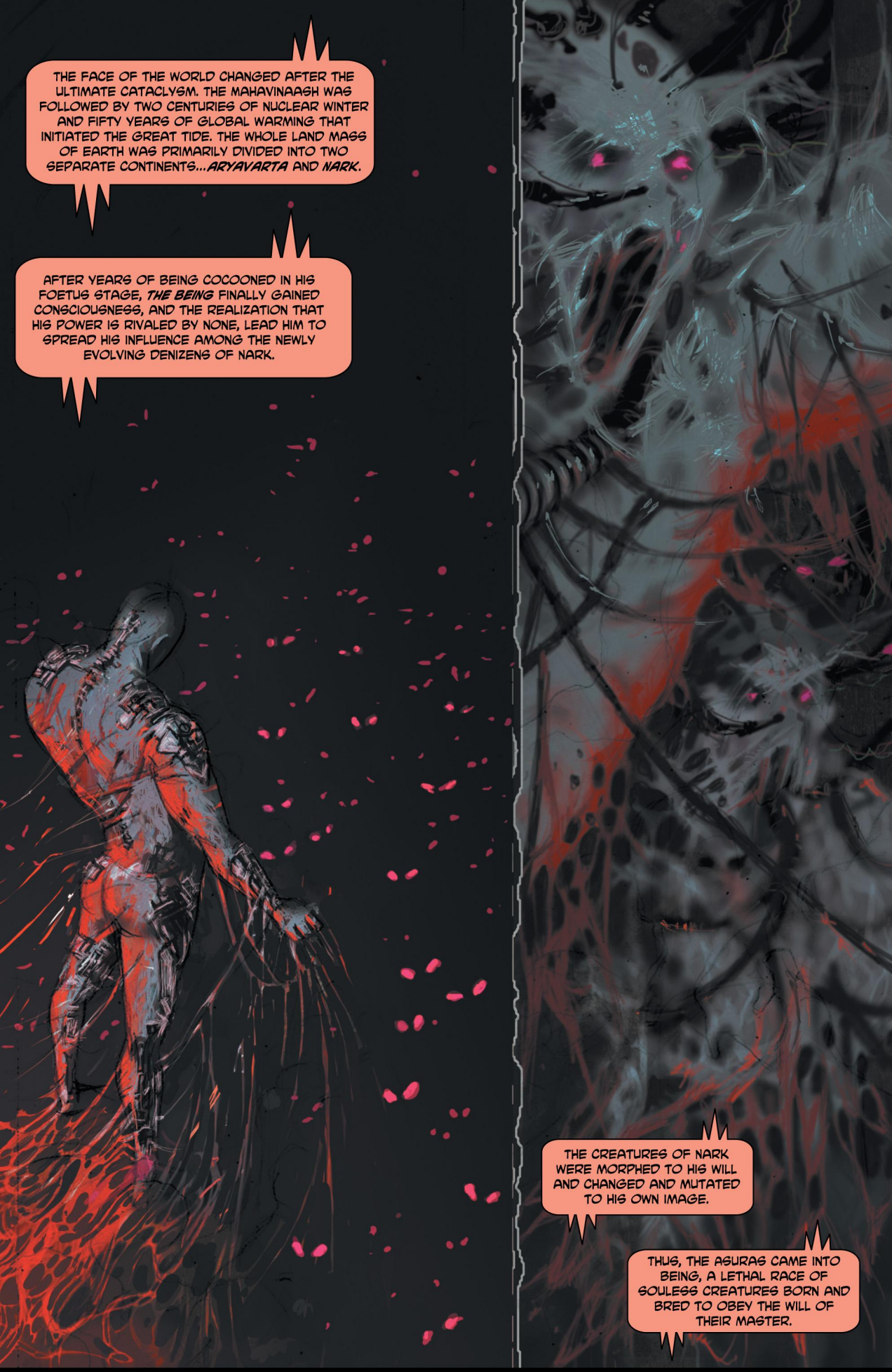
THE FINAL BATTLE FOR SUPREMACY LED TO THE GREATEST GENOCIDE HISTORY HAD EVER KNOWN.
DEMANDS FOR PEACE WERE ANSWERED WITH...
FIRE AND DEATH.
THERE WAS NO END TO THE WAR.
...NO END.

WEAPONS AND DEVICES OF SLAUGHTER WERE APLENTY. BUT ALL THE SEVEN NATIONS WERE EQUALLY POWERFUL AND HENCE, IT LED TO A STALEMATE.
YET, UNKNOWN TO THE OTHERS, ONE OF THE SEVEN NATIONS SECRETLY CONTINUED THEIR COVERT WEAPONS PROGRAM.
FUSING GRAFTED HUMAN FLESH WITH DECADES WORTH OF TECHNOLOGY, THEY CREATED A BEING OF SEEMINGLY UNLIMITED POWER, A LIVING, BREATHING WEAPON THAT THEY BELIEVED COULD FINALLY PUT AN END TO ALL FUTURE WARS.
EVENTUALLY THAT DISTRUST GAVE WAY TO FEAR... FEAR OF WHAT THEY HAD CREATED, AND FEAR OF BEING DETECTED BY THE OTHER NATIONS.
BUT EVEN WITH THE BEST OF TECHNOLOGY, THE UNLIMITED SOURCE OF FUEL THAT WAS REQUIRED WAS UNAVAILABLE. SO THE PROJECT REMAINED DORMANT, ENTOMBED AS IT WERE.
THE SCIENTISTS OF THIS ONE NATION WERE BAFFLED AND SOON THEIR CONFUSION LED TO DISTRUST.
AND OF COURSE, THAT DISTRUST LED TO TREACHERY... AS RUMOR OF WHAT HAD HAPPENED BROKE OUT THROUGH THE SLIGHTEST FISSURE.
THUS IT HAD STARTED... THE *BEGINNING OF THE END.*

THE MAHAVINAASH.
WEAPONS OF ULTIMATE DEVASTATION AND MASS DESTRUCTION LONG HOARDED BY MAN, WERE FINALLY LAUNCHED BY ALL THE SEVEN NATIONS AGAINST EACH OTHER.
AND THE OLD WORLD ENDED.

BUT THE GREAT DESTRUCTION GAVE WAY FOR THE BIRTH OF THE DEMONIC BEING.
THE DARK ENERGY OF ANNIHILATION WHICH STORMED THE PLANET IGNITED THE CREATURE WITH LIFE.
BUT VERY UNLIKE ANY LIFE THAT HAD EVER EXISTED BEFORE...
FROM THE WOMB OF DESTRUCTION HE WAS BORN, A BEING WITHOUT ANY SOUL, SEEMINGLY WITHOUT ANY PURPOSE...
AND AS HE EMERGED FROM THIS TARNISHED WOMB, SO HE SCREAMED HIS NATAL SCREECH...

RRRRAAAAAAAAAAAAA!
AND OUR PLANET WOULD NEVER BE THE SAME BECAUSE AS ONE WORLD DIED...
...HIS WAS CONCEIVED.


THE FACE OF THE WORLD CHANGED AFTER THE ULTIMATE CATACLYSM. THE MAHAVINAASH WAS FOLLOWED BY TWO CENTURIES OF NUCLEAR WINTER AND FIFTY YEARS OF GLOBAL WARMING THAT INITIATED THE GREAT TIDE. THE WHOLE LAND MASS OF EARTH WAS PRIMARILY DIVIDED INTO TWO SEPARATE CONTINENTS...*ARYAVARTA* AND *NARK*.
AFTER YEARS OF BEING COCOONED IN HIS FOETUS STAGE, *THE BEING* FINALLY GAINED CONSCIOUSNESS, AND THE REALIZATION THAT HIS POWER IS RIVALED BY NONE, LEAD HIM TO SPREAD HIS INFLUENCE AMONG THE NEWLY EVOLVING DENIZENS OF NARK.
THE CREATURES OF NARK WERE MORPHED TO HIS WILL AND CHANGED AND MUTATED TO HIS OWN IMAGE.
THUS, THE ASURAS CAME INTO BEING, A LETHAL RACE OF SOULESS CREATURES BORN AND BRED TO OBEY THE WILL OF THEIR MASTER.

THROUGH AGES, THE GREAT CITY OF LANKA WAS BUILT STONE UPON STONE, PILLAR BY PILLAR, CITADEL AFTER CITADEL.

IT BECAME THE SEAT OF POWER FOR THE MIGHTY ASURA LORD, A VERITABLE PANDEMONIUM OF ENDLESS DEBAUCHERY AND CRUELTY. MODELLED AFTER THEIR CREATOR, THE ASURAS ARE WITHOUT SOULS, AND CRAVE THE FEELING OF FLESH, THE ECSTASY OF BLOODSHED AND THE REVELRY OF RUTHLESSNESS.

THE OVERLORD WATCHED ON... HIS DREAMS OF CONQUEST NOW SHIFTED TO THE OTHER CONTINENT...

ARYAVARTA.

THROUGH HIS YANTRA* TECHNOLOGY, HE DEVISED THE ART OF MORPHING FLESH INTO ANY SHAPE HE DESIRED.
HENCE HE SENT HIS FIRST BATCH OF SPIES...
*TECHNO-MAGIC
CREATING THEM IN THE IMAGE OF THE VARIOUS RACES THAT INHABIT OUR CONTINENT, TO MINGLE WITH THEM IN DISGUISE.
PROVIDING THE ASURA PRIME WITH THE VITAL INFORMATION OF EACH RACE AND COUNTRY.
AND WEAKENING THEM FROM WITHIN THROUGH CONSPIRACY AND ESPIONAGE.
WE THE SEVEN SEERS, KNEW THAT ARMAGARH WOULD EVENTUALLY BE POISONED BY THIS VAST STRATAGEM OF THE ASURA PRIME'S CONSPIRACY. HE WOULD START SOWING THE SEEDS OF MISTRUST AND ANARCHY IN ARMAGARH TO ERODE AWAY THE UNITY OF HER CITIZENS. HENCE WE STARTED BUILDING OUR DEFENSE AND IMPLEMENTED THE GREATEST TOOL OF ALL.
GOD.
CODIFYING GOD VIA RELIGION IS THE CORD THAT BINDS PEOPLE TOGETHER. HUMAN BEINGS NEED TO BELIEVE KEEPS THEM RESTRAINED. IN THE ABSENCE OF BELIEF, CHAOS REIGNS. WE HAVE SEEN THIS DEGENERATION ALREADY AND MUST GUARD AGAINST IT.
HENCE WE CREATED THE DIVYA-DRISHTI... THE "GOD PROGRAM." THE SURVIVAL OF ARMAGARH, OF MAN HIMSELF, HANGS IN THE SUCCESS AND SECRECY OF THIS PROGRAM.

I FEAR THAT THE ASURAS HAVE FINALLY SUCCEEDED IN THEIR CONSPIRACY, THROUGH YEARS IT HAS INFECTED THE VERY ROOTS OF THIS NATION. OUR WORST FEARS, HOWEVER, HAVE MATERIALIZED. SOMEONE HAS HACKED INTO THE SYSTEM AND IS USING THE AUTHORITY OF THE GODS TO MANIPULATE THE PEOPLE.
I HAVE BEEN MONITORING EVERYTHING FROM THE GRANTH-GAR..., AND HAVE FIGURED OUT WHO IS BEHIND THIS SCHEME. A NUMBER OF ASURAS HAVE SHIFTED THEIR FORM AND HAVE INFILTRATED ARMAGARH.
THE LEADER OF THIS BAND OF ASURAS IS THE ONE WHO POSES AS KALNEMI OF THE DHIRAAJ CLAN. I BELIEVE THAT THE REAL KALNEMI HAS BEEN REPLACED BY THIS ASURA IMPOSTER.
WE CANNOT RELY ON OTHERS, MY YOUNG SOLDIERS. IT IS OUR DHARMA TO ACT NOW ON WHAT WE KNOW.
RAMA...CLICK... EXILED FROM ARMAGARH...KKKK.... FOURTEEN YEARS...MAY HUMBLY...BACK... RRRRKKK...
THINGS ARE WORSE THAN EVEN I IMAGINED. WE'RE UP AGAINST A DARKNESS THAT HAS ALREADY PENETRATED DEEP WITHIN OUR MIDST. NOW THAT THEY CONTROL THE DIVYA-DRISHTI, THEY HAVE CONTROL OVER THE WHOLE OF ARMAGARH, OVER THE MINDS OF ALL HER PEOPLE.
GOOD GOD, WITH THE EXILE OF RAMA, DEATH OF MAHARAJ DASHRATH, LAKSHMAN'S FLIGHT, AND THE LOSS OF BHARAT AND SHATRUGHAN, KAALNEMI HAS CRIPPLED THE SURYAVANSHI CLAN...THE LEADERS OF ARMAGARH ARE REPLACED BY ASURA IMPOSTERS.
MAYBE THIS CAN HELP. I'LL EXPOSE THE ASURAS TO THE REST OF ARMAGARH...LET'S KEEP THE DATA BOX.
"WON'T DO US MUCH GOOD. KALNEMI HAS DECLARED US REBELS. PEOPLE WON'T BELIEVE US. THIS CONSPIRACY IS TOO ELABORATE AND COMPLEX. WE NEED SOMETHING MORE. WE NEED A SURYAVANSHI*.
"THE GREAT CLAN OF MAHARAJ DASHRATH HAVE BEEN THE LEADERS AND GREATEST MEN OF ARMAGARH FOR AGES. WE NEED HIS KIN."
*RAMA'S DYNASTY
BUT ALL OF THEM ARE EITHER DEAD OR LOST...THERE ARE NO MORE SURYAVANSHIS LEFT IN ARMAGARH.
"NOT ALL OF THEM..."

BHARAT LIVES. HE IS HELD IN CAPTIVITY...SOMEWHERE IN KHUNDGIRI.
WE MUST RESCUE HIM FROM THE ASURAS AT ALL COSTS.
TO BE CONTINUED.

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The Ascension Part 1

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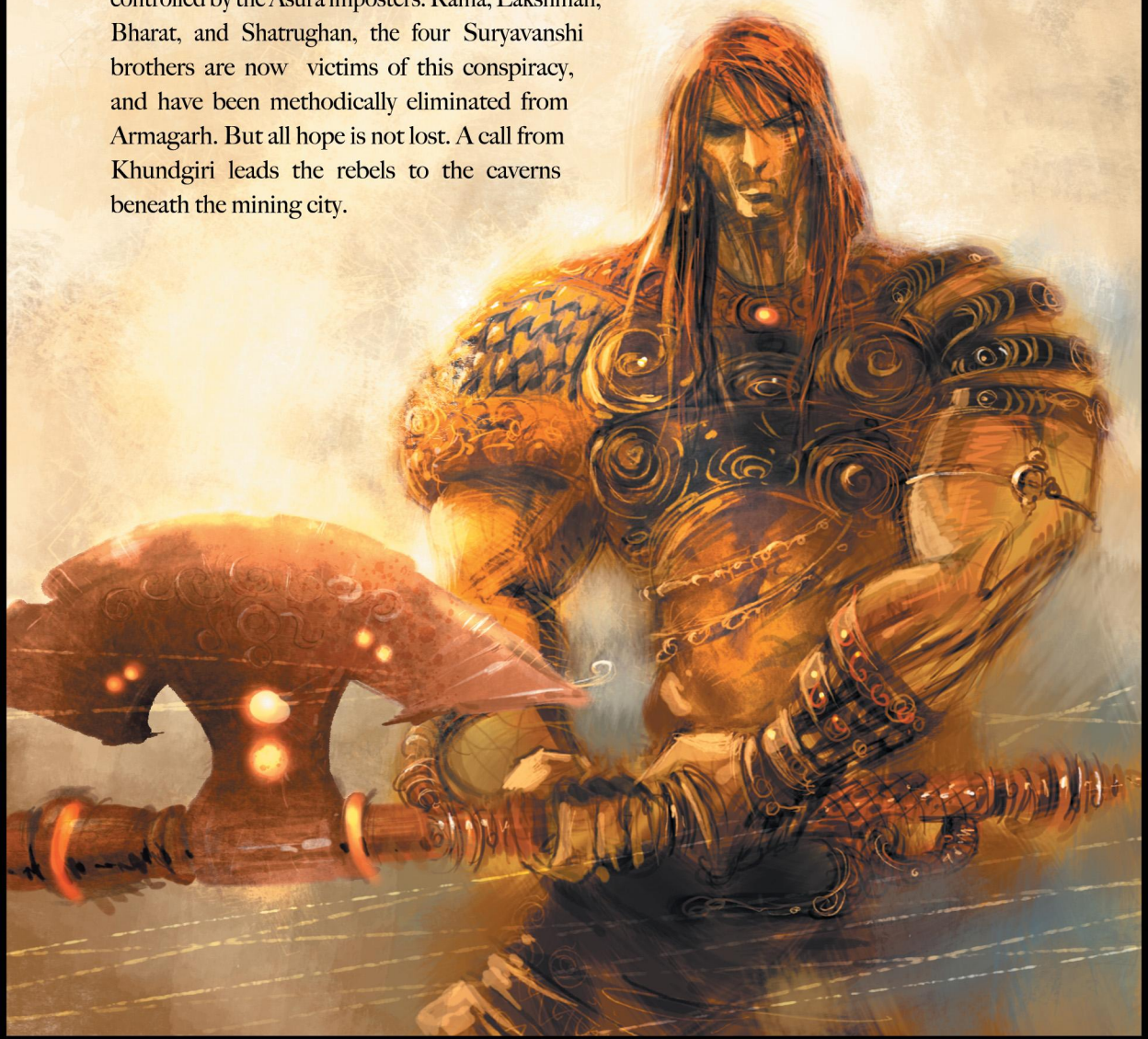
STORY SO FAR

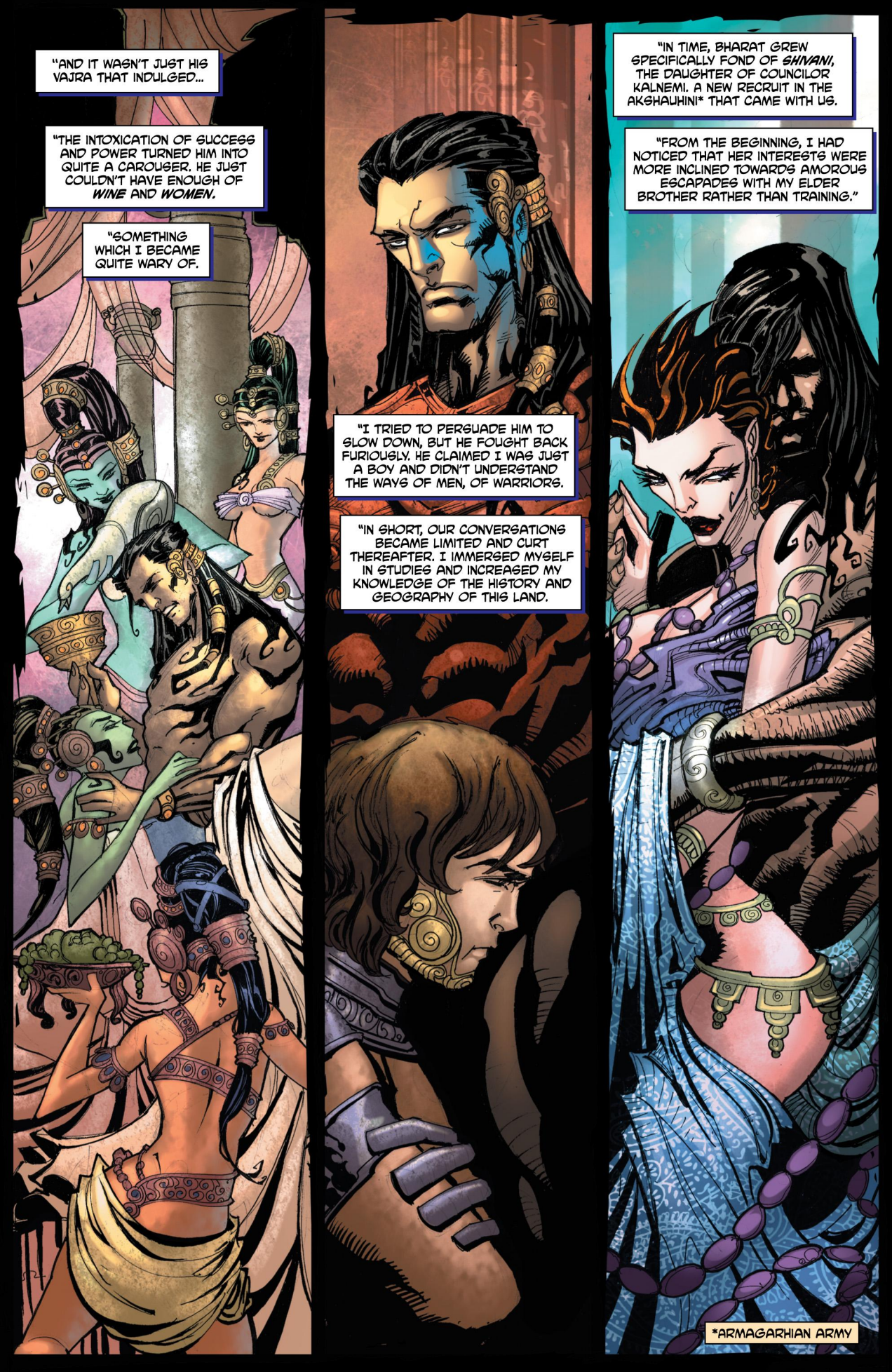
Armagarh is ridden with conspiracy which weakens the great nation from within. After Rama's humanitarian act of saving the lives of the people of Janasthan in exchange for surrender to the Asura army of Viv-Shan, the council decrees upon him the sentence of fourteen years of exile in the outlands of Aryavarta. Maharaj Dashrath dies in grief of losing his son Rama. Lakshman is on the run, chased by assassins. Bharat dies in a freak accident in Khundgiri. Very few know that a covert band of Asuras have disguised themselves as human beings in Armagarh, and that their evil machinations have slowly eroded the integrity of the supreme council that rules the land. The House of Suryavanshi falls victim to these conspiracies and after having justly ruled over Armagarh since the days of the Mahavinaash, now looks like it is about to collapse forever. Indeed, the times are dark for Armagarh.

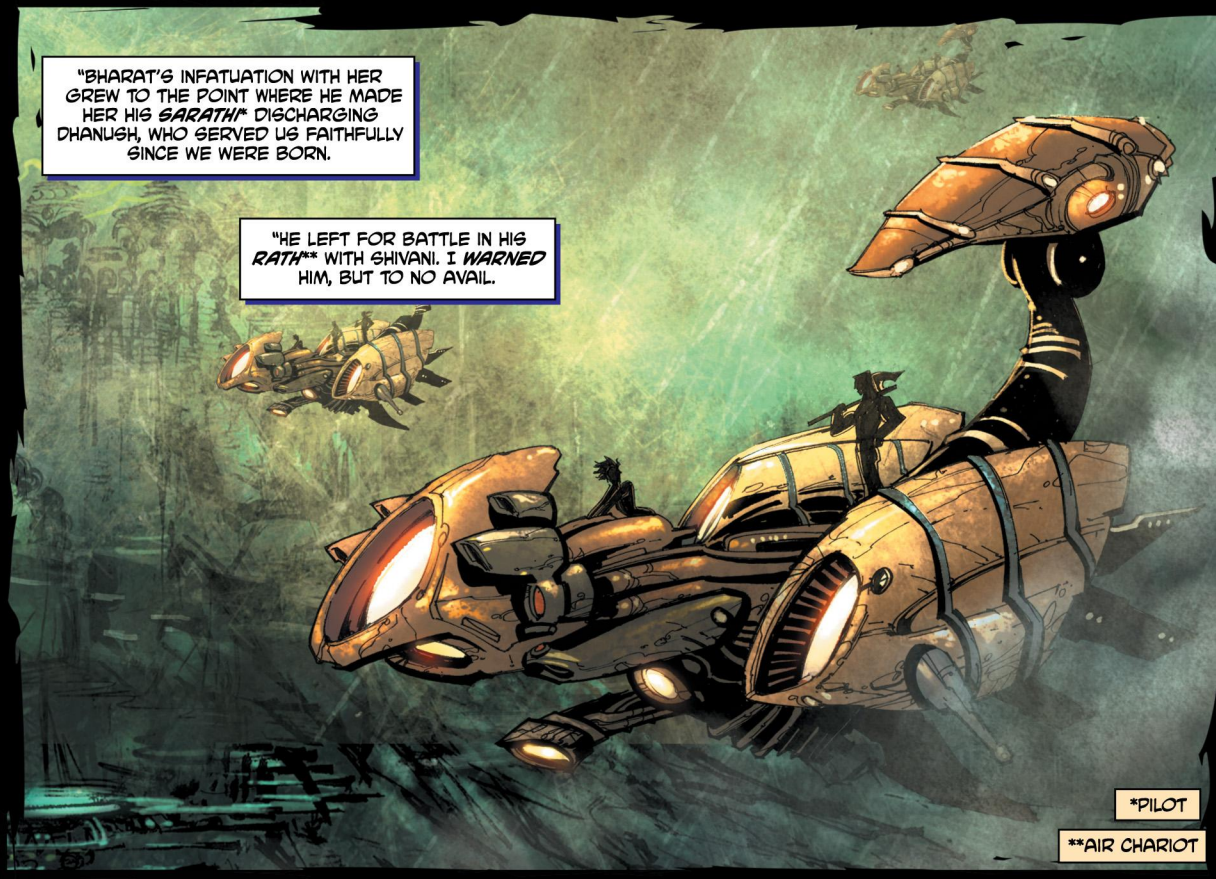
A small band of rebels led by the late Maharaj Dashrath's close friend, Councillor Sumantra, makes advances into investigating this conspiracy, and unearths shocking facts. Kalnemi, the prominent councillor is actually an Asura. The Gods that decree moral judgment are nothing but a programme now controlled by the Asura imposters. Rama, Lakshman, Bharat, and Shatrughan, the four Suryavanshi brothers are now victims of this conspiracy, and have been methodically eliminated from Armagarh. But all hope is not lost. A call from Khundgiri leads the rebels to the caverns beneath the mining city.

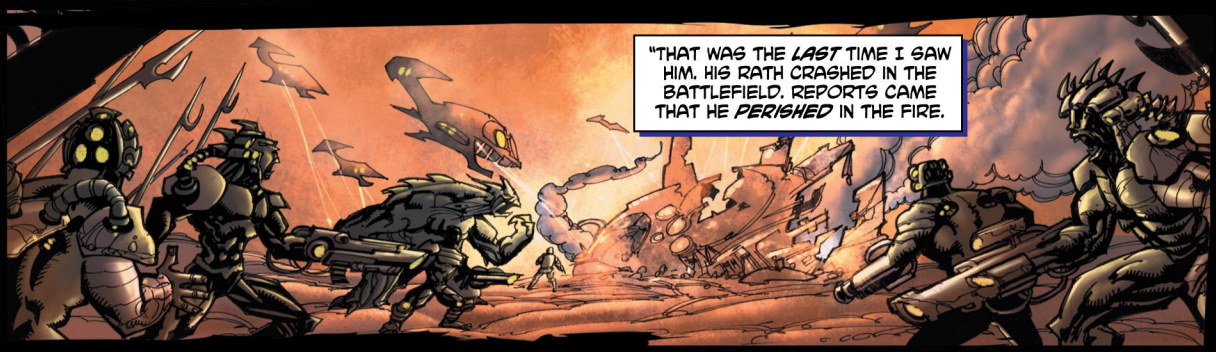


THE MINES OF KHUNDGIRI.
"THEY CAPTURED MY BROTHER BHARAT ALMOST A YEAR AGO.
"THEY ARE KEEPING HIM ALIVE, TRYING TO BREAK DOWN HIS GENETIC CODE AND--*CLONE*--HIM.
"AN *ASURA* CLONE.
"BUT *SURYAVANSHI** DNA IS HARD TO COPY. OF SELECTIVE BREEDING AND GENERATIONS OF TRAINING, WE AREN'T THE TOUGHEST OF *KSHATRIYAS** FOR NOTHING.
"BUT THEY ARE SMART, BEING PATIENT, KEEPING HIM ALIVE, AND DRAINING HIM SLOWLY. I CAN ONLY *IMAGINE* THE PAIN HE MUST BE IN."
*THE DYNASTY OF RAMA
*WARRIORS OF ARMAGARH

"MORE THAN A YEAR HAD PASSED SINCE MY BROTHERS AND I WERE DISPATCHED BY THE ARMAGARHIAN COUNCIL TO *KHUNDGIRI* AND *JANASTHAN* RESPECTIVELY. I STILL REMEMBER HOW IRRITATED LAKSHMAN WAS AT BEING POSTED IN JANASTHAN. ALL HE WANTED WAS WAR, FOR WHICH THERE WAS LITTLE SCOPE IN THAT TINY HAMLET.
"THAT WAS NOT THE CASE IN KHUNDGIRI. THERE IS NOTHING BUT WAR OVER HERE.
"THE ASURA INVASION HAD GOTTEN MORE AMBITIOUS AS THE WEEKS PASSED. THEY HAD WRESTED CONTROL OVER HALF THE ISHPAAT* MINES.
"BHARAT WAS *OVERJOYED* AT THE PROSPECT OF SEVERAL MARTIAL ACTIVITIES IN WHICH HE COULD GET INVOLVED.
*STEEL
"BHARAT FOUND HIS DHARMA* HERE, MARCHING AGAINST THE ASURA CONQUEST AND ADMINISTERING THE GRISLIEST OF DEATHS TO THEIR HORDES."
*DESTINY


"AND IT WASN'T JUST HIS VAJRA THAT INDULGED...
"THE INTOXICATION OF SUCCESS AND POWER TURNED HIM INTO QUITE A CAROUSER. HE JUST COULDN'T HAVE ENOUGH OF WINE AND WOMEN.
"SOMETHING WHICH I BECAME QUITE WARY OF.
"I TRIED TO PERSUADE HIM TO SLOW DOWN, BUT HE FOUGHT BACK FURIOUSLY. HE CLAIMED I WAS JUST A BOY AND DIDN'T UNDERSTAND THE WAYS OF MEN, OF WARRIORS.
"IN SHORT, OUR CONVERSATIONS BECAME LIMITED AND CURT THEREAFTER. I IMMERSED MYSELF IN STUDIES AND INCREASED MY KNOWLEDGE OF THE HISTORY AND GEOGRAPHY OF THIS LAND.
"IN TIME, BHARAT GREW SPECIFICALLY FOND OF SHIVANI, THE DAUGHTER OF COUNCILOR KALNEMI. A NEW RECRUIT IN THE AKSHAUHINI* THAT CAME WITH US.
"FROM THE BEGINNING, I HAD NOTICED THAT HER INTERESTS WERE MORE INCLINED TOWARDS AMOROUS ESCAPADES WITH MY ELDER BROTHER RATHER THAN TRAINING."
*ARMAGARHIAN ARMY

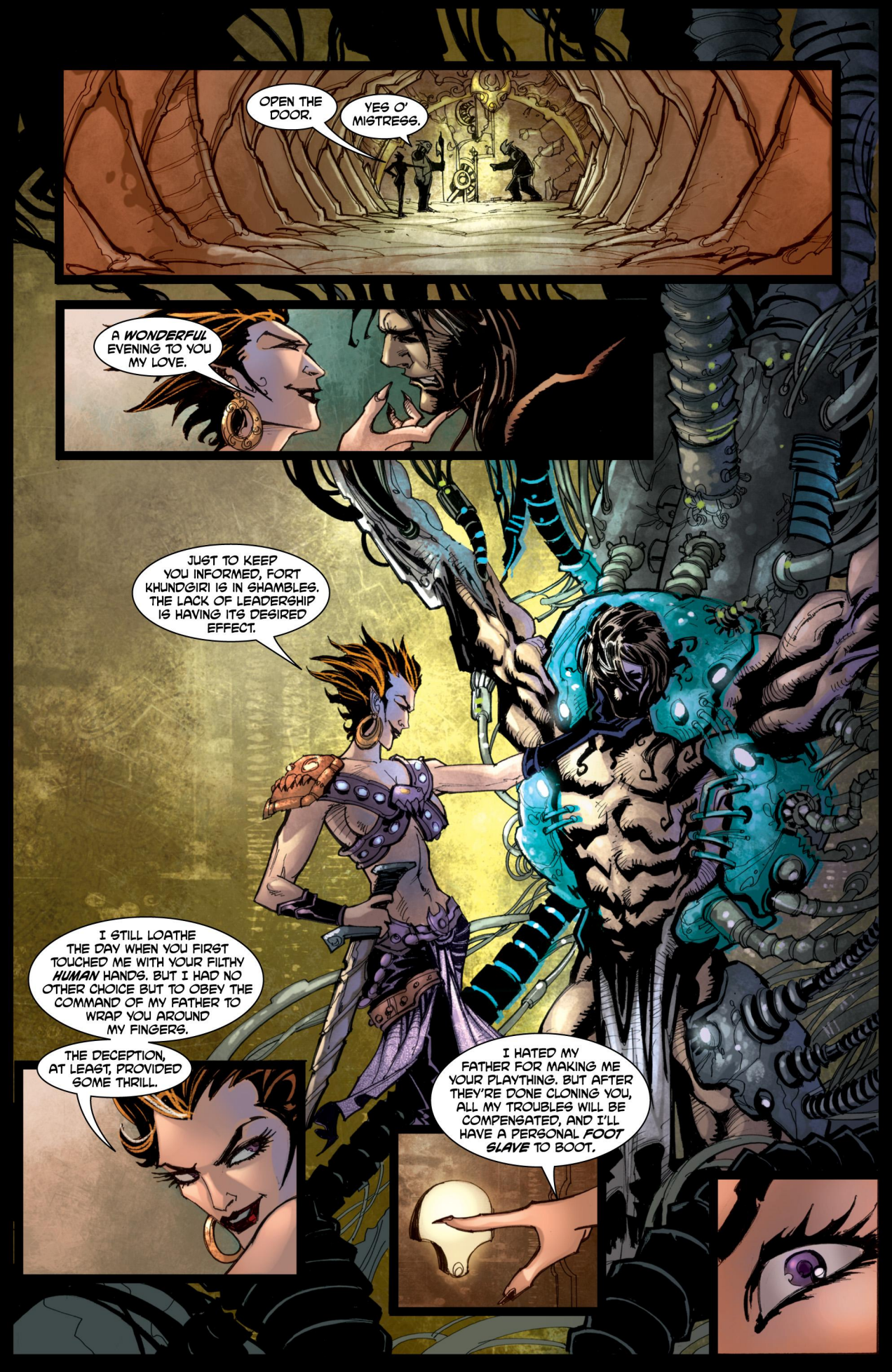

"BHARAT'S INFATUATION WITH HER GREW TO THE POINT WHERE HE MADE HER HIS *SARATHI** DISCHARGING DHANUSH, WHO SERVED US FAITHFULLY SINCE WE WERE BORN.
"HE LEFT FOR BATTLE IN HIS *RATH*** WITH SHIVANI. I *WARNED* HIM, BUT TO NO AVAIL.
*PILOT
**AIR CHARIOT


"THAT WAS THE *LAST* TIME I SAW HIM. HIS RATH CRASHED IN THE BATTLEFIELD. REPORTS CAME THAT HE *PERISHED* IN THE FIRE.

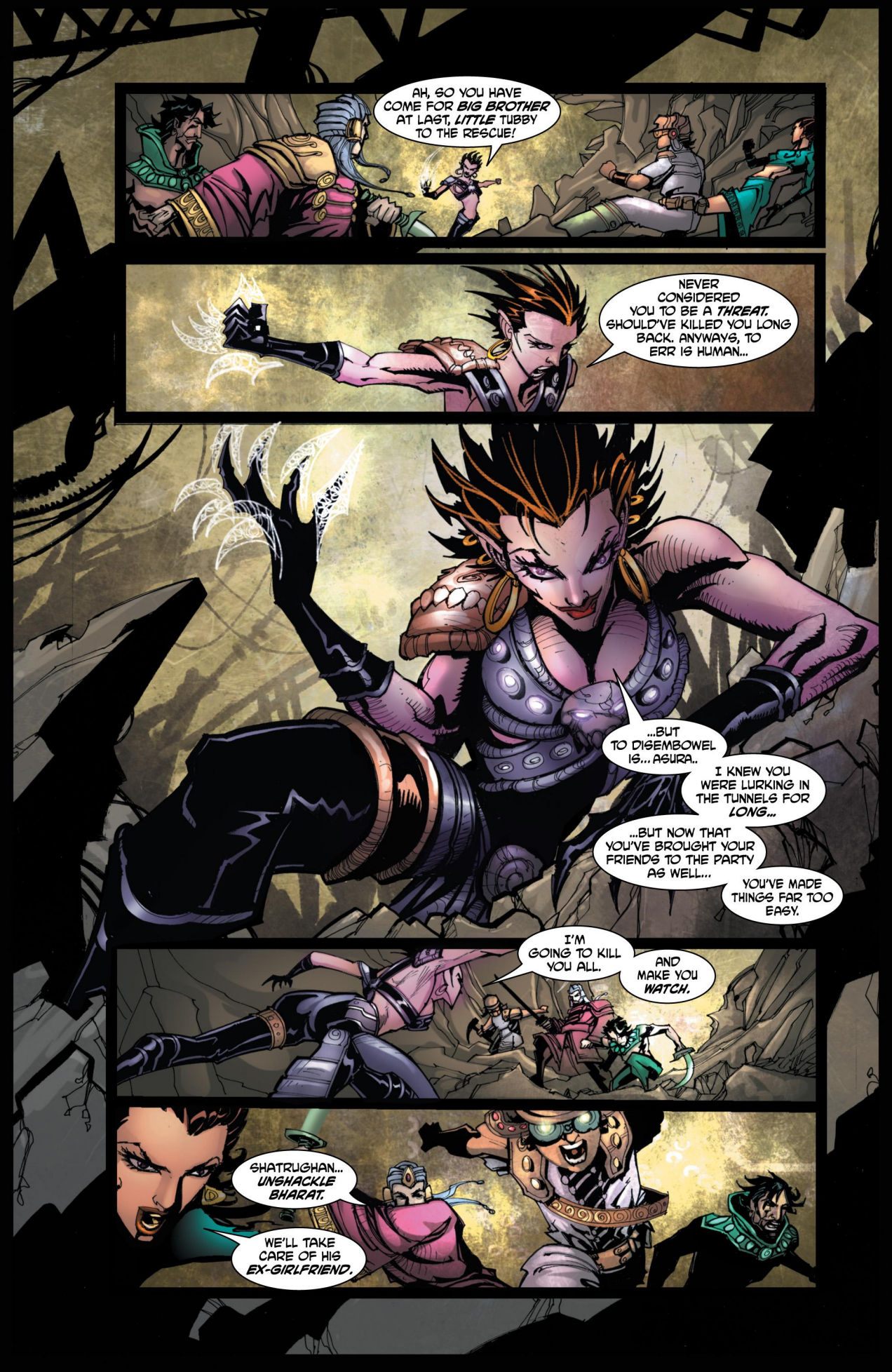
"BUT I KNEW FROM MY TIME IN KHUNDGIRI THAT A *CONSPIRACY* WAS BREWING AGAINST MY BROTHER AND THE SOVEREIGNTY OF ARMAGARH AS A WHOLE. NO REPORT COULD DISSUADE ME FROM MY INSTINCT THAT SOMETHING WAS AMISS.
"SO I STARTED EXPLORING THE *SUBTERRANEAN* NETWORK OF KHUNDGIRI, WHICH I KNEW FROM MY RESEARCH, WAS HONEYCOMBED WITH *HUNDREDS* OF TUNNELS LEADING IN AND OUT OF THE MINES."

"FOR LONG I WATCHED THE ASURAS AND LEARNED ABOUT THEM--THEIR MOVEMENTS AND MOTIVATIONS.
"AT PRESENT, THEY ARE SPREAD WIDE AND DEEP WITHIN THE MINES OF KHUNDGIRI, AND BURROWING TOWARDS OUR FORTRESS. THEY HAVE FORMED THEIR STRONGHOLDS AND RESEARCH LABS IN SOME OF THE MINES.
"MONTHS, I SPENT UNDERGROUND, EVADING AND DODGING THE ASURAS, EXPLORING DEEPER, FEEDING ONLY ON CAVE RODENTS.
"EVENTUALLY, AFTER MUCH ANXIOUS WANDERING--WITH A FEW CLOSE CALLS--I ENCOUNTERED WHAT I HAD ALWAYS SUSPECTED.
"...AND MY INSTINCT WAS SPOT ON. SHIVANI WAS NOT TO HAVE BEEN TRUSTED."

SOMEWHERE DEEP UNDERNEATH KHUNDGIRI
HENCE I ACCUMULATED AS MUCH INFORMATION AS I COULD, AND TRANSMITTED IT TO YOU *UNCLE SUMANTRA.*
WELL DONE MY BOY. WERE YOUR FATHER ALIVE, HE WOULD HAVE BEEN *PROUD* OF YOU.
HM... MY FATHER... I RUE THE DAY WE LEFT HIM. THE MALADIES OF HEART AND BODY TOOK A GREAT TOLL ON HIM AND HE SUCCUMBED. I *FAILED* HIM AS A SON. IT IS MY GREATEST REGRET.
SHOW US WHERE THEY ARE KEEPING HIM.
WE *NEED* BHARAT TO SAVE ARMAGARH. WE NEED THE HOUSE OF SURYAVANSHI TO STAND BESIDE US.
HOW MANY HAVE YOU BROUGHT?
TEN SKILLED KSHATRIYAS.
FFNK... WHAT GOOD WILL *TEN* KSHATRIYAS BE AGAINST THE *THOUSANDS* IN THE CATACOMBS?
WE'LL DO WHAT WE MUST.
FOLLOW ME-- I KNOW WHERE THEY ARE WEAK...


OPEN THE DOOR.
YES O' MISTRESS.
A WONDERFUL EVENING TO YOU MY LOVE.
JUST TO KEEP YOU INFORMED, FORT KHUNDGIRI IS IN SHAMBLES. THE LACK OF LEADERSHIP IS HAVING ITS DESIRED EFFECT.
I STILL LOATHE THE DAY WHEN YOU FIRST TOUCHED ME WITH YOUR FILTHY HUMAN HANDS. BUT I HAD NO OTHER CHOICE BUT TO OBEY THE COMMAND OF MY FATHER TO WRAP YOU AROUND MY FINGERS.
THE DECEPTION, AT LEAST, PROVIDED SOME THRILL.
I HATED MY FATHER FOR MAKING ME YOUR PLAYTHING. BUT AFTER THEY'RE DONE CLONING YOU, ALL MY TROUBLES WILL BE COMPENSATED, AND I'LL HAVE A PERSONAL FOOT SLAVE TO BOOT.

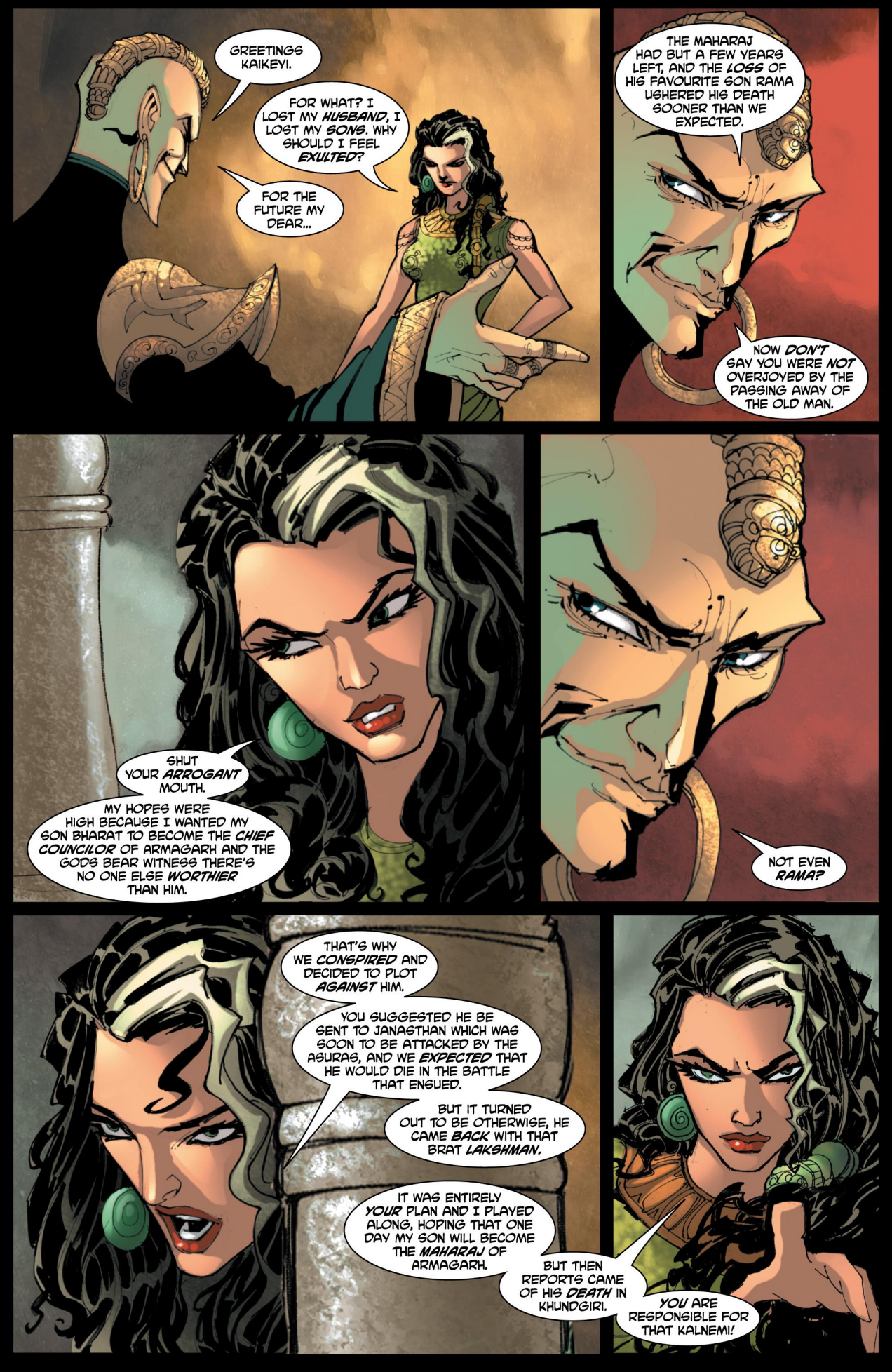
A WONDERFUL EVENING TO YOU... SHIVANI!


AH, SO YOU HAVE COME FOR *BIG BROTHER* AT LAST, *LITTLE* TUBBY TO THE RESCUE!
NEVER CONSIDERED YOU TO BE A *THREAT.* SHOULD'VE KILLED YOU LONG BACK. ANYWAYS, TO ERR IS HUMAN...
...BUT TO DISEMBOWEL IS... ASURA..
I KNEW YOU WERE LURKING IN THE TUNNELS FOR *LONG...*
...BUT NOW THAT YOU'VE BROUGHT YOUR FRIENDS TO THE PARTY AS WELL...
YOU'VE MADE THINGS FAR TOO EASY.
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU ALL.
AND MAKE YOU *WATCH.*
SHATRUGHAN... *UNSHACKLE BHARAT.*
WE'LL TAKE CARE OF HIS *EX-GIRLFRIEND.*

JAYANT, MANDAVI...COVER HER *FLANK*,
AGNISH, THE *NEURO-CANNON*, AIM FOR HER LOWER TORSO! THREE HITS *MINIMUM*.
THE ONLY THING YOU'RE GOING TO *HIT* IS THE *DIRT*.
YOU *KILLED* HIM...YOU BI--
TCHHH!
SUMANTRA'S *CORE TEAM*. FINALLY, I'LL RID US OF YOU *REBEL SCUM*.
DAMMIT...SHE WILL SLAUGHTER THEM ALL.
BHARAT...WAKE UP BROTHER. WE NEED YOU...

HEH...YOU MIGHT'VE GOTTEN AWAY WITH THOSE WORTHLESS PISAACH* GUARDS.
*ASURA ZOMBIE RACE
GGGNNN...
GUESS YOU NEVER FOUGHT A REAL RAKSHASA.
HKKK...
HOY!
...IT'S TIME TO GET SOME CLOSURE ON OUR LITTLE TRYST....
...YOU WITCH.
AH...MY DARLING, I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO IT EAGERLY.
BUT AS MUCH AS I'D HATE TO SAY, YOU'RE WITHOUT YOUR WEAPON.
THERE ARE SIXTY-NINE WAYS I CAN KILL YOU WITH MY BARE HANDS.
PICK ONE.

ARMAGARH, THE RAJMAHAL.
COUNCILOR KALNEMI REQUESTS AN AUDIENCE WITH YOU O' MISTRESS.
I AM NOT INTERESTED. TELL HIM THAT I AM UNWELL.
B-BUT HE INSISTS...IT'S IMPORTANT...
I TOLD YOU ONCE, GIRL...DON'T TRY MY PATIENCE.
I DO INSIST COUNCILOR KAIKEYI.


GREETINGS KAIKEYI.
FOR WHAT? I LOST MY *HUSBAND*, I LOST MY *SONS*. WHY SHOULD I FEEL *EXULTED*?
FOR THE FUTURE MY DEAR...
THE MAHARAJ HAD BUT A FEW YEARS LEFT, AND THE *LOSS* OF HIS FAVOURITE SON RAMA USHERED HIS DEATH SOONER THAN WE EXPECTED.
NOW *DON'T* SAY YOU WERE *NOT* OVERJOYED BY THE PASSING AWAY OF THE OLD MAN.
SHUT YOUR *ARROGANT* MOUTH.
MY HOPES WERE HIGH BECAUSE I WANTED MY SON BHARAT TO BECOME THE *CHIEF COUNCILOR* OF ARMAGARH AND THE GODS BEAR WITNESS THERE'S NO ONE ELSE *WORTHIER* THAN HIM.
NOT EVEN *RAMA*?
THAT'S WHY WE *CONSPIRED* AND DECIDED TO PLOT *AGAINST* HIM.
YOU SUGGESTED HE BE SENT TO JANASTHAN WHICH WAS SOON TO BE ATTACKED BY THE ASURAS, AND WE *EXPECTED* THAT HE WOULD DIE IN THE BATTLE THAT ENSUED.
BUT IT TURNED OUT TO BE OTHERWISE, HE CAME *BACK* WITH THAT BRAT *LAKSHMAN*.
IT WAS ENTIRELY *YOUR* PLAN AND I PLAYED ALONG, HOPING THAT ONE DAY MY SON WILL BECOME THE *MAHARAJ* OF ARMAGARH.
BUT THEN REPORTS CAME OF HIS *DEATH* IN KHUNDGIRI.
YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THAT KALNEMI!

DON'T YOU DARE ACCUSE ME WOMAN! I AM NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR YOUR SON'S RECKLESSNESS!.
ALL WHAT YOU EVER WANTED WAS FOR BHARAT TO BECOME THE MAHARAJ. ALL YOU EVER WANTED WAS TO DESTROY RAMA AND LAKSHMAN.
BUT MY SONS ARE DEAD...ALL BECAUSE YOU SENT THEM TO KHUNDGIRI.
WE BOTH LOST OUR CHILDREN KAIKEYI, BUT WE ARE ALIVE.
AND WE HAVE THE WHOLE OF ARMAGARH TO RULE.
LET'S FORGET THE PAST AND BEGIN ANEW, I'LL BECOME THE NEW MAHARAJ OF ARMAGARH, AND YOU SHALL BE MY CONSORT.
SPTH!
WITCH!
SPATT!
I OFFER YOU THE GREATEST SEAT OF POWER AND YOU REFUSE? NOW YOU'LL SUFFER THE CONSEQUENCES.
TOMORROW I AM GOING TO BE APPOINTED THE NEW MAHARAJ OF ARMAGARH, AND THE ENTIRE COUNCIL IS WITH ME. I CAME TO YOUR CHAMBERS TO GAIN YOUR SUPPORT, OTHERWISE I WOULDN'T HAVE GIVEN A DAMN FOR A HAS-BEEN LIKE YOU.
FROM NOW ON YOU WILL ROT IN THE LUXURY OF THIS CHAMBER. YOU'LL NEVER SET FOOT OUTSIDE THE BOUNDARIES OF YOUR QUARTERS.
AS FOR BHARAT, I'LL KEEP HIM ALIVE FOR ANOTHER YEAR. HIS SUFFERINGS WILL BE LEGEND.
BHARAT! ALIVE...?!

IT FEELS GOOD TO HAVE SOME ASURA BLOOD ON MY HANDS AFTER A LONG TIME.
UH... WAS THAT REALLY NECESSARY? IT WAS QUITE MESSY... DISTURBING..
YEAH, I'D BEEN FEELING DISTURBED FOR AN AWFUL LONG TIME. HOW LONG WAS IT?
I LOST COUNT OF TIME...MAYBE SEVEN MONTHS OR MORE. IT'S HARD TO TELL TIME IN THE DARKNESS OF THE MINES.
YOU'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR ME IN THE MINES FOR THE LAST SEVEN MONTHS?
I WAS NOT GOING TO LEAVE WITHOUT FREEING YOU.
THEN WE'RE EVEN. REMEMBER, I SAVED YOUR ROUND BEHIND IN THE SHAKTI KUNDALI?
BOF!
OOOFF...
IT WAS RAMA YOU BIG LUG! YOU NEED REST. THE DRUGS HAVE MESSED UP YOUR MIND.
GUESS SO, FEELING A BIT WOOZY. THE DUNG EATERS REALLY MESSED ME UP GOOD.

FUN IS FUN, AND DONE IS DONE BROTHER.
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE.
SSHKRANK...!
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING FOR?
I'M NOT GOING TO GET OUT OF HERE WITHOUT MY GEAR.
COME ON THEN, WHERE ARE YOU?.
AH...THERE'S MY BELOVED VAJRA*, AND KAVATCH.**
SO THESE ARE THE LEGENDARY WEAPONS OF 'BHARAT THE BERSERKER'?
*BHARAT'S AXE
**ARMOR
MY VAJRA IS MADE OF THE FINEST ISHPAAT OF KHUNDGIRI, BOASTING THE MOST SOPHISTICATED SOLAR TECHNOLOGY THAT POWERS THE BLADES.
I SWEAR I CAN LOP OFF THE TEN HEADS OF RAVAN WITH THIS BABY.
HMMPH...BIG WORDS, BOYS AND THEIR TOYS.

AH, I REMEMBER, YOU'RE UNCLE SUMANTRA'S DAUGHTER MANDAVI. LAST TIME I SAW YOU, WE WERE TRAINING IN THE SHASTRA-GAR*. HOW OLD WERE YOU THEN? TWELVE...THIRTEEN?
FOURTEEN. YOU WERE QUITE A BROWBEATER I RECALL..
YEAH, AND I USED TO SCARE THE SPIT OUT OF YOU.
THAT WAS A LONG TIME AGO. I'M NOT SCARED OF ANYTHING ANYMORE. GUESS I GREW UP.
*COMBAT INSTITUTE
INDEED, AND ALL IN THE RIGHT PLACES, I MIGHT ADD!
BHARAT, WE HAVE TO LEAVE NOW. MY SCANNER IS DETECTING A LARGE NUMBER OF ASURAS NEARBY.
WE HAVE TO RUN.
AH, SHIVANI SERVED WELL AS AN APPETIZER.
BHARAT, WE WON'T ENGAGE THE ENEMY UNTIL IT IS AN ABSOLUTE NECESSITY. THERE ARE AROUND THIRTY ASURAS HEADING THIS WAY.
MAYBE MORE.
MORE THE MERRIER.

IF WE HURRY, WE MIGHT REACH OUR VEHICLE BEFORE THEY CATCH UP.
UNCLE SUMANTRA, YOU'RE ALWAYS SUCH A SPOILSPORT.
HUFF...HUFFF...
ARE YOU TRYING TO OUTRUN ME? LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE OUT OF BREATH... WANT A PIGGYBACK?
HUFF...IN YOUR DREAMS... HUFF...
GODS HELP US...THEY ARE TOO CLOSE.
THEY ARE TRYING TO SURROUND US.
THEY MIGHT WELL BE IN THE NEXT TURN.
BRING IT ON, THEN.

WHEE...HOOO... AND THERE GOES THE LAST ONE.
I CAN STILL USE A SECOND SERVING.
HAPPY?
I CAME HERE WITH TEN KSHATRIYAS. NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE LEFT. MY DAUGHTER.
COME, LET'S GO FOR A SECOND ROUND. LET'S FIND OUT EVERY SINGLE ASURA IN THESE CONFOUNDED MINES.
AND KILL YOUR BROTHER AND MY DAUGHTER IN THE PROCESS?
THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?
I AM SORRY, MY FAULT. I WAS LOOKING FOR A LEADER AND FOUND A WAR-ADDICT INSTEAD.
MANDAVI, LETS GET OUT OF HERE AND FIND RAMA, WE MIGHT DIE IN THE WASTELANDS, BUT THEN IT WILL BE A WORTHY DEATH. WE WILL DIE TRYING TO FIND OUR TRUE LEADER WHOM ARMAGARH EXILED.
RAMA...EXILED?

YES, EXILED. RAMA WAS *EXILED* BY THE COUNCIL BECAUSE HE CHOSE TO *SAVE* HUMAN LIVES.
THE COUNCIL EXILED HIM FOR FOURTEEN YEARS, AND FOR YOUR INFORMATION YOUR *MOTHER* VOTED *AGAINST* RAMA ALONGSIDE KALNEMI AND THEIR FRIENDS IN THE COUNCIL.
AND--YOU SHOULD KNOW, YOUR FATHER, MAHARAJ DASHRATH IS *NO MORE.*
KALNEMI IS SPREADING HIS INFLUENCE. SOON HE WILL BECOME THE MAHARAJ OF ARMAGARH. KNOW THIS, ARMAGARH WILL BE RULED BY AN ASURA...
...IF WE DO NOTHING ABOUT IT.
LEAD ME TO YOUR VEHICLE, UNCLE SUMANTRA.
IT'S *TIME* THE SURYAVANSHIS RETURN TO ARMAGARH.
AND I *SWEAR...*

BEGIN THE PROCESS OF ANOINTMENT MY FRIENDS, FELLOW COUNCILORS.
IT'S TIME TO ELECT THE NEW MAHARAJ OF ARMAGARH.
"...THERE'LL BE HELL TO PAY."
TO BE CONTINUED.

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The Ascension Part 2

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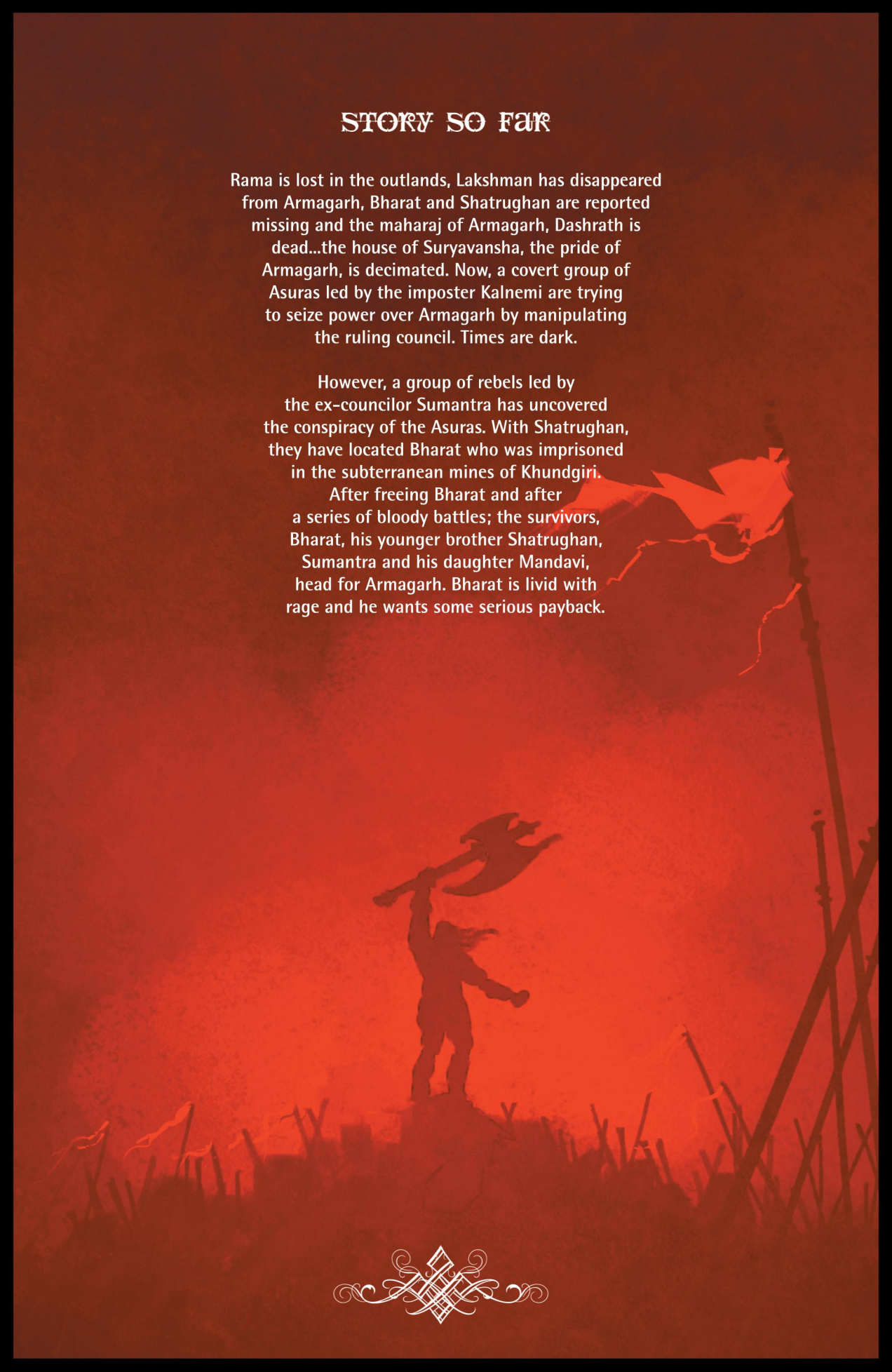
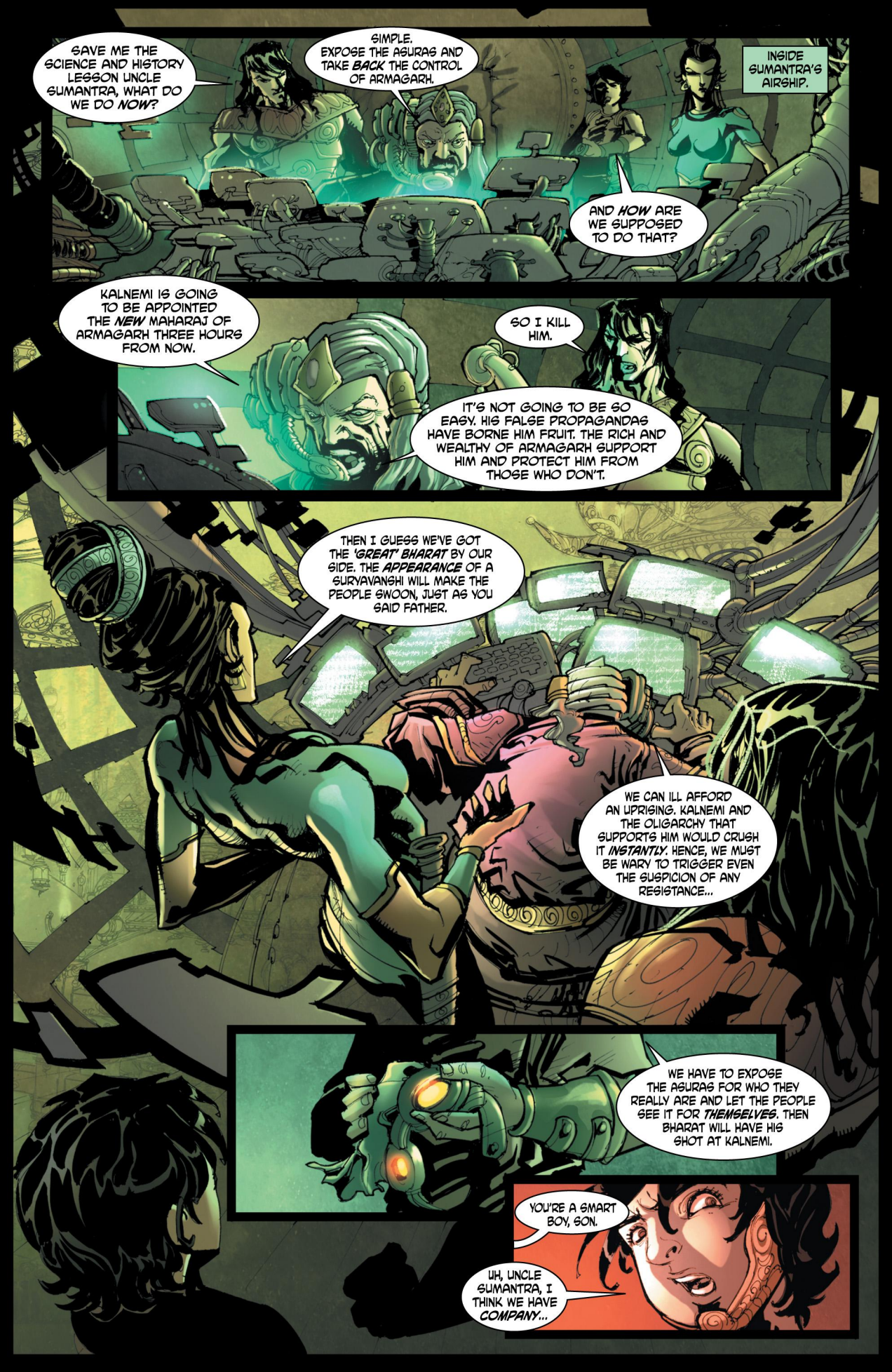
STORY SO FAR

Rama is lost in the outlands, Lakshman has disappeared from Armagarh, Bharat and Shatrughan are reported missing and the maharaj of Armagarh, Dashrath is dead...the house of Suryavansha, the pride of Armagarh, is decimated. Now, a covert group of Asuras led by the imposter Kalnemi are trying to seize power over Armagarh by manipulating the ruling council. Times are dark.

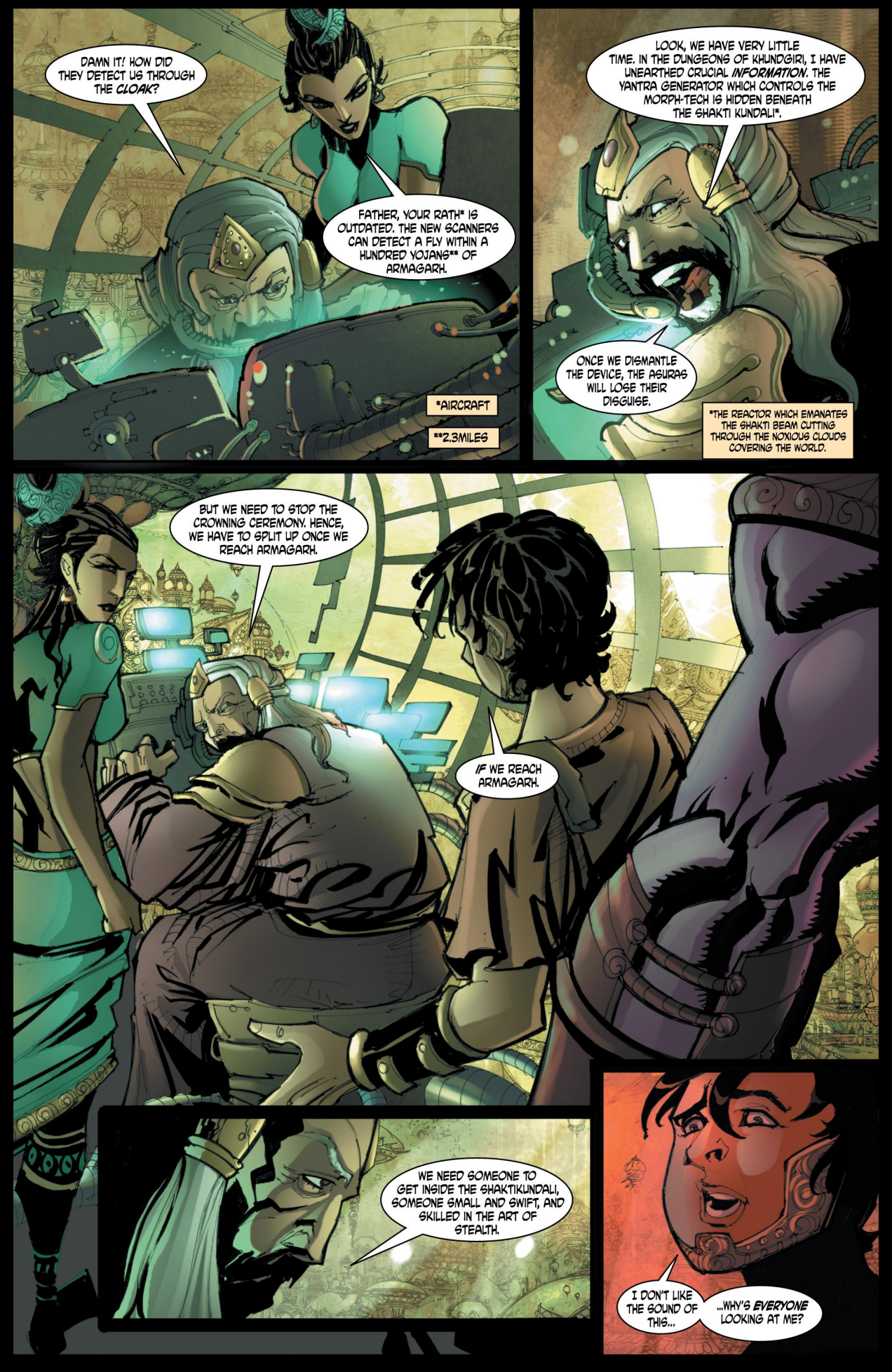
However, a group of rebels led by the ex-councilor Sumantra has uncovered the conspiracy of the Asuras. With Shatrughan, they have located Bharat who was imprisoned in the subterranean mines of Khundgiri. After freeing Bharat and after a series of bloody battles; the survivors, Bharat, his younger brother Shatrughan, Sumantra and his daughter Mandavi, head for Armagarh. Bharat is livid with rage and he wants some serious payback.



"AMONG ALL THE ASURA RACES, RAKSHASAS ARE THE *ONLY* SPECIES WHO CAN CHANGE THEIR SHAPE; THEY CAN MORPH INTO *ANY* CREATURE OF THEIR SIZE AND MOLECULAR DENSITY...
"AFTER YEARS OF RESEARCH, THE *BRAHMIN* SCIENTISTS OF ARMAGARH DEDUCED THAT RAKSHASAS ARE NOT BORN, BUT CREATED OUT OF ANTHROPOMORPHIC CREATURES. THEIR WHOLE BODY IS LACED WITH *YANTRA TECH* IN THE SUBCUTANEOUS LAYER, WHICH GIVES THEM THE POWER TO MORPH INTO ANY OTHER CREATURE OF EQUAL MOLECULAR DENSITY.
"THE YANTRA TECH IS ACTUALLY *SENTIENT MICROSCOPIC MECHANICAL ORGANISMS* WHICH FORMS THE BEING OF *RAVAN*. IN THE OLDEN AGES IT WAS KNOWN AS *NANO-TECHNOLOGY*. IT IS SAID THAT RAVAN IS A BEING CREATED WITH BILLIONS OF THESE MICRO-ORGANISMS AND HENCE HE ACTUALLY DOESN'T HAVE ANY PROPER FORM TO BEGIN WITH.
"COMING BACK TO THE POINT, THE RAKSHASAS IN ARMAGARH ARE DISGUISED AS *HUMAN* BEINGS, BUT THE EQUILIBRIUM IN THIS MICRO-MACHINERY IS MAINTAINED BY A DEVICE HIDDEN *DEEP* WITHIN ARMAGARH. DESTROY THAT DEVICE AND THEY'LL LOSE THEIR MASKS INSTANTLY."


SAVE ME THE SCIENCE AND HISTORY LESSON UNCLE SUMANTRA, WHAT DO WE DO *NOW*?
SIMPLE. EXPOSE THE ASURAS AND TAKE *BACK* THE CONTROL OF ARMAGARH.
INSIDE SUMANTRA'S AIRSHIP.
AND *HOW* ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO THAT?
KALNEMI IS GOING TO BE APPOINTED THE *NEW* MAHARAJ OF ARMAGARH THREE HOURS FROM NOW.
SO I KILL HIM.
IT'S NOT GOING TO BE SO EASY. HIS FALSE PROPAGANDAS HAVE BORNE HIM FRUIT. THE RICH AND WEALTHY OF ARMAGARH SUPPORT HIM AND PROTECT HIM FROM THOSE WHO DON'T.
THEN I GUESS WE'VE GOT THE *'GREAT' BHARAT* BY OUR SIDE. THE *APPEARANCE* OF A SURYAVANSHI WILL MAKE THE PEOPLE SWOON, JUST AS YOU SAID FATHER.
WE CAN ILL AFFORD AN UPRISING. KALNEMI AND THE OLIGARCHY THAT SUPPORTS HIM WOULD CRUSH IT *INSTANTLY*. HENCE, WE MUST BE WARY TO TRIGGER EVEN THE SUSPICION OF ANY RESISTANCE...
WE HAVE TO EXPOSE THE ASURAS FOR WHO THEY REALLY ARE AND LET THE PEOPLE SEE IT FOR *THEMSELVES*. THEN BHARAT WILL HAVE HIS SHOT AT KALNEMI.
YOU'RE A SMART BOY, SON.
UH, UNCLE SUMANTRA, I THINK WE HAVE *COMPANY*...

TRESPASSERS... IDENTIFY YOURSELF... YOU ARE IN THE PERIMETER OF THE SOVEREIGN REPUBLIC OF ARMAGARH...
REPORT IMMEDIATELY OR YOU WILL BE FIRED UPON.
I *DON'T* HAVE TIME FOR THIS NOW.
IT'S ONLY A FEW YOJANS TO ARMAGARH, WE CAN GET THROUGH.
FOOM
FULL THROTTLE AHEAD!
ZOWW


DAMN IT! HOW DID THEY DETECT US THROUGH THE CLOAK?
FATHER, YOUR RATH* IS OUTDATED. THE NEW SCANNERS CAN DETECT A FLY WITHIN A HUNDRED YOJANS** OF ARMAGARH.
*AIRCRAFT
**2.3MILES
LOOK, WE HAVE VERY LITTLE TIME. IN THE DUNGEONS OF KHUNDGIRI, I HAVE UNEARTHED CRUCIAL INFORMATION. THE YANTRA GENERATOR WHICH CONTROLS THE MORPH-TECH IS HIDDEN BENEATH THE SHAKTI KUNDALI*.
ONCE WE DISMANTLE THE DEVICE, THE ASURAS WILL LOSE THEIR DISGUISE.
*THE REACTOR WHICH EMANATES THE SHAKTI BEAM CUTTING THROUGH THE NOXIOUS CLOUDS COVERING THE WORLD.
BUT WE NEED TO STOP THE CROWNING CEREMONY. HENCE, WE HAVE TO SPLIT UP ONCE WE REACH ARMAGARH.
IF WE REACH ARMAGARH.
WE NEED SOMEONE TO GET INSIDE THE SHAKTIKUNDALI, SOMEONE SMALL AND SWIFT, AND SKILLED IN THE ART OF STEALTH.
I DON'T LIKE THE SOUND OF THIS...
...WHY'S EVERYONE LOOKING AT ME?

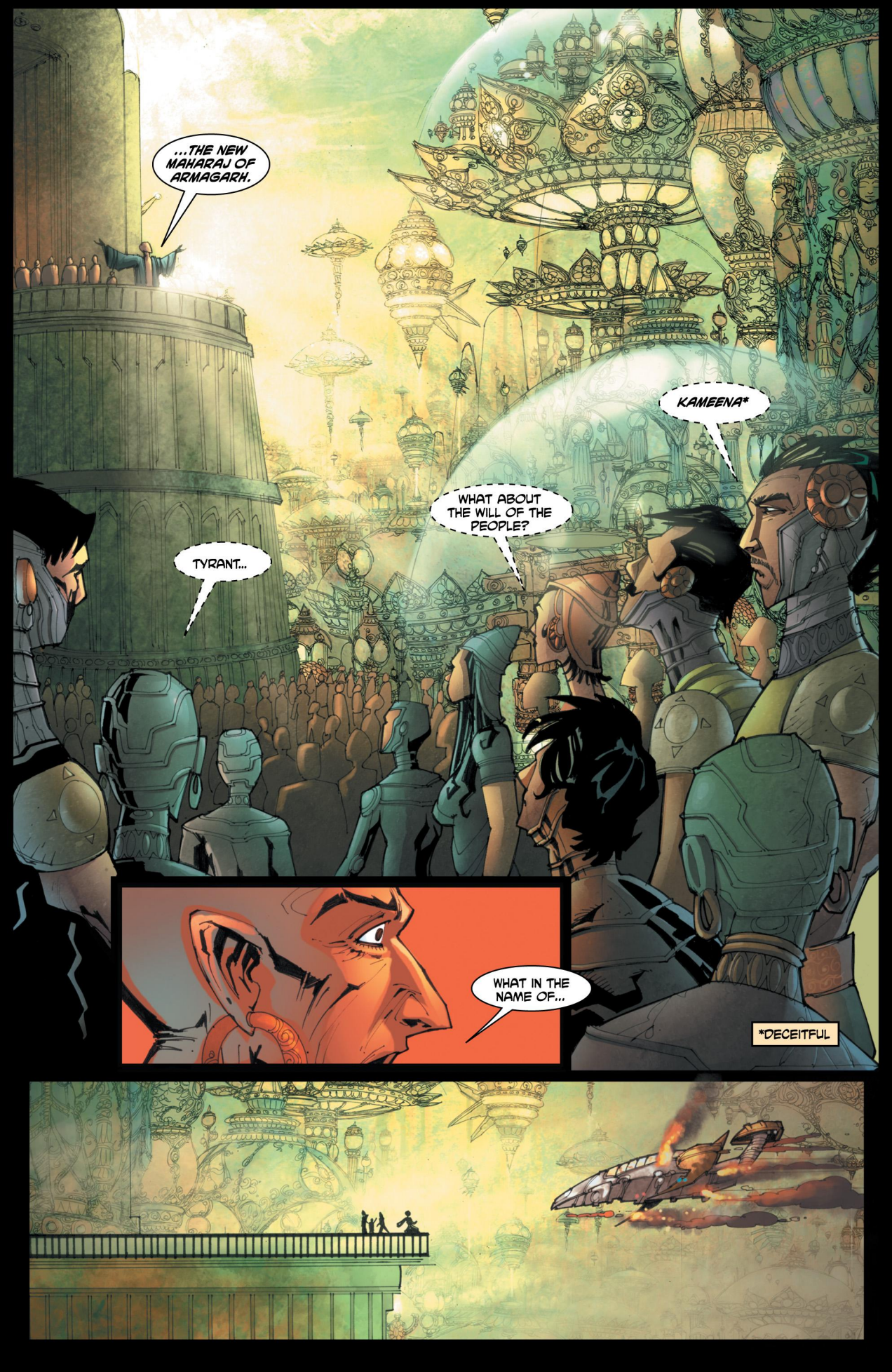
RAJMAHAL, THE ROYAL ABODE.
FEELS GOOD TO BE THE MAHARAJ.
MASTER... COUNCILOR KALNEMI...
HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT, MANTHAR?
WHAT?!

FATHER, OUR BATTERY CIRCUITS HAVE BEEN *FRIED*.
WE ARE IN ARMAGARH NOW. SHATRUGHAN, I AM GOING TO EJECT YOU RIGHT ABOVE THE SHAKTIKUNDALI, YOU'LL BE *ON YOUR OWN* THEREAFTER.
WHY DO I ALWAYS HAVE TO BE THE '*BALI KA BAKRA*'*?
*SACRIFICIAL LAMB.
BECAUSE YOU LOOK LIKE ONE, MY BROTHER.
KNOW THIS TUBBY, THERE IS *NO ONE* ELSE IN WHOSE HANDS I WOULD PLACE THE *FATE* OF OUR PEOPLE THAN *YOU*...
BUT I'M SCARED OF HEIGHTS...
A KSHATRIYA IS SCARED OF *NOTHING*.
SEE YOU AT THE *RAJMAHAL* BROTHER.
PAKKK...

AAAARRRGHHH... WHERE'S THE DAMN BUTTON?!
OH GOD... OH GOD...
THAT'S IT!
BEEP...
WWWOOOOOMMMMMM
FWAPPP...
BINGO!

ARMARGARH... HERE COMES YOUR SAVIOUR!
WE ARE ALMOST NEAR THE *RAJMAHAL*, BHARAT.
BEGIN THE CEREMONY.
ABOUT TIME... *HURRY UP* FOOLS.

IT'S TIME THE PEOPLE OF ARMAGARH MEET THEIR NEW MAHARAJ.
BUT MASTER, SHOULDN'T WE INFORM LORD RAVAN OF BHARAT'S ESCAPE?
HE IS NOT TO BE INVOLVED IN SUCH INCONSEQUENT MATTERS. THE BOORISH LAD CAN BE HANDLED BY US.
WHERE IS KAIKEYI? IS SHE HERE AS PER MY ORDERS?
SHE IS HERE, BUT WE HAD TO 'MEDICATE' HER DUE TO HER ILL HEALTH AND TEMPER.
EXCELLENT! I NEED HER PRESENCE IN FRONT OF THE JANATA* TO SHOW THEM THE ENTIRE COUNCIL IS NOW ON MY SIDE.
PEOPLE OF ARMAGARH... A NEW AGE FOR THE RACE OF MAN BEGINS... AS I TAKE OATH, AND OFFER YOU MY SERVICES AS...
*POPULATION OF ARMAGARH


...THE NEW MAHARAJ OF ARMAGARH.
KAMEENA*
WHAT ABOUT THE WILL OF THE PEOPLE?
TYRANT...
WHAT IN THE NAME OF...
*DECEITFUL

MEANWHILE, NEAR THE SHAKTIKUNDALI.
RAMA, NOW WOULD BE A DECENT TIME FOR ONE OF YOUR OVERLY ENTHUSIASTIC INTRUSIONS TO SAVE THE DAY...
...AND MY BUTT...HENHH.
NOW TO FIND THE YANTRA REACTOR.
ACCORDING TO UNCLE SUMANTRA'S BLUEPRINTS, IT LIES ROUGHLY NORTH EAST TO THE OORJA* SHAFT CONDUITS...
*ENERGY
...AS IF SEVEN MONTHS OF SPELUNKING WEREN'T ENOUGH.
STILL, HERE GOES NOTHING!
YAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAA!!

AH! THERE IT IS.
HOPE THIS WORKS.
HEY... LOOK HERE!
HRGGMMM..?!
WHAT I HAVE IN MY HAND IS A GRADE 3 CARBON BASED *VISFOTAK**. NOW YOU FELLOWS HAVE A *CHOICE*, BACK OFF AND I WILL DISABLE THE YANTRA TURBINE. I *PROMISE* YOU'LL HAVE ENOUGH TIME TO GET OUT OF ARMAGARH WITH YOUR HIDE INTACT.
OR I CAN DROP IT AND *END* EVERYTHING.
*ARMAGARHIAN BOMB
HRGM...?!
HRAGH...!

BACK AT THE RAJMAHAL.
ARREST THAT MAN, SENTRIES. HE IS THREATENING THE MAHARAJ OF ARMAGARH!
B-BUT HE IS BHARAT SURYAVANSHI!
BHARAT DIED IN KHUNDGIRI MONTHS AGO. HE IS AN IMPOSTER! HE IS WITH THE REBELS!
HEH...WHY DONT YOU COME CLOSE AND FIND OUT IF I'M THE REAL DEAL?
--COME ON SHATRU...WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME.
GET THEM YOU FOOLS.
UH--WE GOT TO BE SURE THAT'S HE'S NOT REALLY BHARAT.
YES-- WE JUST SAW THAT.
LOOK, I THINK THAT'S BHARAT! HE'S NOT DEAD. IT WAS A LIE!
ONE OF THE THOUSAND LIES KALNEMI SPEAKS EVERY DAY. THE THRONE OF MAHARAJ BELONGS TO BHARAT.
YES, BHARAT IS THE NEW MAHARAJ.
OVERTHROW KALNEMI!
KALNEMI, YOU SUCK!
DOWN WITH KALNEMI!

DAMN IT....THIS SITUATION IS GETTING OUT OF HAND.
SENTRIES, ARREST THIS MAN IMMEDIATELY, THAT'S MY ORDER. WE CAN DETERMINE WHETHER HE IS THE REAL BHARAT OR NOT LATER.
I AM SORRY SIR, WE HAVE TO...
INCORRECT...
I AM SORRY...
FDAP!
...I UNDERSTAND BROTHERS, BUT I CAN'T LET YOU.

MEANWHILE... BENEATH THE SHAKTI KUNDALI.
DAMMIT... THESE BLOKES ARE TOO DUMB TO BE BLUFFED!
TIME IS RUNNING SHORT
BHARAT MUST BE AT THE RAJMAHAL BY NOW..
RRRGHHH...
EVERY SECOND WASTED MEANS BHARAT BEING CAPTURED.
COME HERE... I'VE HAD IT WITH YOU
GHRAAA...
KRONKK!
KKKRAAANKK!
YES!!!
THE MACHINE SHORT-CIRCUITED.

YOU BASTARD...
TAKE THIS MAN AND HIS REBELS TO THE DUNGEONS.
GET RID OF SUMANTRA AND HIS REBEL SCUM, BUT KEEP THIS IMPOSTER ALI--VEEEEEEEE
KRONIKA
EEEEEEEEEE
BLESS YOUR LITTLE HEART SHATRUGHAN!
WHAT THE...!!

JUST AS I THOUGHT, THE COUNCIL IS OVERRUN WITH YOU VERMIN.
GET HIM... GET BHARAT.
GAMEOVER SCUMBAG!
SLORGGJ.
C'MERE YOU WITCH.
UNNHHH...
ONE STEP AND SHE JOING YOUR FATHER, BIG BOY.
MOTHER!

RAARGHH...
I GUESS NOT...
SLICH!
MANDAVI... GET AWAY FROM HIM.
ENOUGH...
FAPP!
KRDAK
DAMN YOU!
BWOP!

I DESTROYED EVERYONE, YOUR BROTHERS, YOUR FATHER, YOUR MOTHER. I GOT RID OF ALL.
BUT YOU HAD TO COME BACK LIKE A BAD SIKKA.*
*ARMAGARHIAN PENNY.
YOU HAVE DONE AN AWFUL LOT INDEED!
FAREWELL "MAHARAJ!" THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE...
NO... NOO...
NO...
...IT'S TIME TO RETIRE.
NOOOOO
BOAM!

KEEP THEM ALIVE. WE NEED *INFORMATION.* THE SKILLS OF THE INQUISITORS DO *NEED* SOME USE.
YES SIR.
WE WERE DUPED BY ASURAS!
BHARAT HAS SLAIN KALNEMI, *HAIL BHARAT!*
ALL-HAIL!
I AM SORRY MY SON... I... I MADE A MISTAKE.
WE WILL TALK ABOUT THIS LATER, YOU NEED REST.
BHARAT...
WE NEED TO *REBUILD* THE SYSTEM, WE SHALL APPOINT A *NEW COUNCIL,* A NEW *DEMOCRATIC* GOVERNING BODY TO RULE. I REQUEST YOU TO *HEAD* THIS COUNCIL.
WHAT COUNCIL?
I *DENOUNCE* ANY COUNCIL. IT NEVER DID ANY GOOD TO THE PEOPLE.
HENCEFORTH, FOR THE *FIRST* TIME IN THE HISTORY OF THIS GREAT LAND I *DECLARE MYSELF...*

...THE SOVEREIGN KING OF ARMAGARH!
HAIL BHARAT!
HAIL THE KING!
JAI BHARAT!
JAI
JAI BHARAT!
UNTIL I FIND AND BRING BACK MY BROTHER, RAMA.
ARMAGARH BELONGS TO HIM.
TO BE CONTINUED.